SUNDAY
September 7, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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TROUBLED WATERS

Why a barren island is a flashpoint

India accepted Sri Lanka's right over Katchatheevu long ago, but politicians rake it up time and again, denting ties

PROFILES » PAGE 14

Amid U.S. tariff impact, will the GST rate cuts boost the economy?

FAQ » PAGE 13

How RNA, amino acids may have linked up on early earth

SCIENCE » PAGE 12

India cruises past China, meets Korea in the final

SPORT » PAGE 16

NEARBY

New civic bodies take over citizen services

BENGALURU
Citizen services, such as trade licenses, birth and death certificates, and building plan approvals, which were previously provided by the BBMP, will now be delivered by the newly formed corporations.
» PAGE 4

15% NRI quota seats in govt. medical colleges

BENGALURU
Karnataka is introducing 15% NRI quota seats in government medical colleges, Sharan Prakash R. Patil, Minister for Medical Education, has announced. » PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES J2 & 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Modi welcomes Trump's remarks on 'special' ties

After U.S. President praises India-U.S. relationship and terms Modi a 'great Prime Minister', the PM says he 'deeply appreciates and fully reciprocates... positive assessment', sparking hopes of a thaw

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and the United States have a special relationship. There's nothing to worry about... we just have moments [of disagreements] on occasion
DONALD TRUMP
U.S. President
I deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties
NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that India and the U.S. had a "very positive and forward-looking" relationship, his first such statement since ties between the two countries nosedived over trade, tariffs, and Operation Sindoor.

Quoting remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump, who said on Friday that India and the U.S. had a "special relationship", and praised Mr. Modi and their friendship, the Prime Minister said on X that he "deeply appreciated and fully reciprocated" the comments.

Significantly, the two leaders, who met warmly in February shortly after Mr. Trump was sworn-in, have not spoken directly to each other since a telephone call on June 17, after which India-U.S. trade talks broke down and the U.S. declared 25% tariffs on Indian goods, along with a 25% penalty for India's purchase of Russian oil.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is scheduled to travel to the U.S. for the fourth time this year, for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), confirmed that India "remains engaged" with the U.S.

Mr. Trump's comments, in a 90-minute press conference on a range of issues, came a day after he had said on social media that the U.S. had "lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China", a post that he backtracked on.

"I don't think we have [lost India]," Mr. Trump said in response to a question about the post.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
'NO DEAL ON AGRI IMPORTS'
» PAGE 8

PM to skip key UNGA session later this month

UNITED NATIONS
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly from September 23 to 29. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will address the session on September 27. » PAGE 8

Probe into voter fraud in Karnataka hits roadblock after EC withholds details

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

An investigation into an alleged attempt to disenfranchise voters through forged applications in Karnataka's Aland Assembly constituency has stalled with the Election Commission not sharing data the State has requested.

The alleged fraud was uncovered ahead of the Assembly polls in the State in May 2023, and though the votes were saved, the investigation, on for more than two years, has reached nowhere. Karnataka's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has sent multiple letters seeking data that could expose those behind the scam, said sources. But the poll body has not responded.

The case, registered in February 2023, predates the recent 'vote *chori*' campaign of the Congress. In Aland, unidentified persons filed applications to delete names of a large number of voters saying they had shifted. The applications were made using credentials of other voters.

Following a complaint by Congress leader B.R. Patil, verification of Form 7 applications in 6,018 cases found 24 as genuine and the remaining 5,994 as forged.

On a complaint by then Assistant Commissioner of Kalaburagi district, Mamata Devi, the Aland police registered a case, which the CID took over.

While the commission shared IP logs and other data with the agency in 2023, requests for destination IPs and destination ports, which will help identify devices used to make the applications, have gone unanswered, sources said.

DETAILED REPORT ON
» PAGE 9

Aland audit

The table shows the election results in the Aland constituency of Karnataka in the past two Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections

Year	Party	Vote share (in %)	Margin votes
2018 Assembly election	BJP	47.83	697
	INC	47.39	
2019 General election (Assembly segment result)	BJP	57.65	28,287
	INC	36.48	
2023 Assembly election	INC	51.27	10,348
	BJP	45.34	
2024 General election (Assembly segment result)	BJP	52.8	12,936
	INC	44.1	

Source: Election Commission of India

State's fertility rate declines further to 1.5, well below replacement level

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

According to the Sample Registration Survey 2023, released this week, the Crude Birth Rate in Karnataka fell to 15.2 in 2023, down from 15.8 in 2022. However, the sex ratio at birth at 931 stood higher than the national average of 917.

Karnataka has recorded a steady decline in its birth rate, with the State's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) at 1.5 in 2023, well below the replacement level fertility rate of 2.1. It was 1.6 in 2022.

Karnataka is in the group of other southern States such as Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, all of which have fertility levels lower than replacement rate. Replacement level TFR denotes the average number of children each woman needs to give birth for one generation to replace the other.

According to the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2023, released this week by the Office of the Registrar General of India, the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) in Karnataka fell to 15.2 in 2023, down from 15.8 in 2022.

At the national level, India's CBR declined from 19.1 in 2022 to 18.4 in 2023, while the country's TFR fell for the first time in two years to 1.9. Bihar recorded the highest CBR at 25.8 and the highest TFR at 2.8, while Tamil Nadu reported the lowest CBR at 12 with a TFR of 1.3.

At 931, Karnataka's sex ratio at birth (SRB) stood higher than the national average of 917, denoting that 931 girls are born for every 1,000 boys in the population. The sex ratio is higher in rural areas in Karnataka at 936 compared to 922 in urban areas.

The data showed that Chhattisgarh and Kerala reported the highest SRB at 974 and 971, respectively, while Uttarakhand reported the lowest at 868. Bihar's SRB remained among the lowest in the country, despite slightly improving to 897 in 2023. Delhi, Maharashtra, and Haryana were among some of the States and UTs reporting SRB below 900 in 2023.

IMR FALLS BY ONE POINT
» PAGE 6

Mumbai police bust drug unit in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Mumbai police have uncovered a mephedrone manufacturing unit in Cherlapally near Hyderabad, and arrested 12 persons.

"We found nearly 5.8 kg of mephedrone, 35,500 litres of chemicals, 950 kg of other material used in the production of the synthetic drug," said an officer involved in the probe. The seized drug is reportedly worth over ₹9 crore.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 7

Until next year

Last leg of festivities: Devotees in large numbers take part in a procession carrying an idol of Ganesha for its immersion in the Arabian Sea in Mumbai on Saturday, the last day of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. AFP

Two Khalistani groups funded from inside Canada: report

Press Trust of India
OTTAWA

At least two Khalistani extremist groups have received financial support originating from Canada, according to a new Canadian government report on terror financing.

The report titled '2025 Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks in Canada' has identified the groups as Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation.

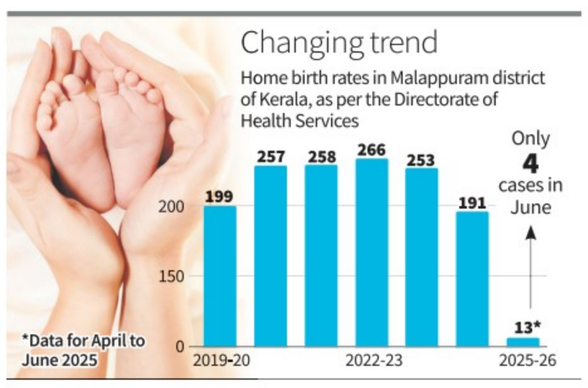
The development comes two months after a report by Ottawa's intelligence agency said a politically motivated violent extremism threat in Canada since the mid-1980s has manifested through Khalistani extremists seeking to use violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan within India's Punjab.

The latest report said the 'Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE)' encourages "the use of violence to establish new political systems, or new structures and norms within existing systems." "While PMVE may include religious elements, actors are more focused on political self-determination or representation, rather than racial or ethnic supremacy," it said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Malappuram delivers in its fight against home births

Abdul Latheef Naha
MALAPPURAM



Home birth rates in Malappuram district of Kerala have come down drastically following interventions by the State health authorities.

Home births in the district dropped from 253 in 2023-24 to 191 in 2024-25. Only four cases were reported in June. District Medical Officer R. Renuka described the decline as remarkable, attributing it to targeted interventions.

It was the death of a 35-year-old woman during home birth at Padapparamba, near Malappuram, in April that prompted a series of interventions from the State health authorities, with the support of the district administration and the police. Religious and socio-cultural leaders were also roped in.

Health officials said the practice of home births is not restricted to any religion or community. The trend is largely influenced by certain naturopathy and acupuncture groups, and driven by a desire to avoid medical procedures such as epidurals or pain medication, labour induction or delivery assisted with forceps or other instruments.

"We have had good support from all communities and religious groups in spreading awareness of the risks of home births," Dr. Renuka said. She said the media's proactive coverage after the death of the woman in April has been a game-changer.

Apart from spreading awareness, the health authorities moved legally too against those involved in the home birth that led to the woman's death. "We have registered cases against the victim's husband and the woman who assisted in the childbirth," Dr. Renuka said.

Efforts by health officials have led to a substantial decline in home births among the tribespeople in the district's remote areas of Nilambur, where such cases were once common.

"Home births have a higher risk of infant or maternal death and other complications than hospital births," Dr. Renuka said.

Fading heritage: Elderly women of the Apatani community, the last generation to wear the traditional tattoos and nose plugs.

Picturesque homeland: The bowl-shaped Ziro Valley, where agriculture remains the prime occupation.

Mark of identity: The Apatanai women can still breathe through the nose with the plugs.

Generations together: An Apatani woman with facial tattoos playing with her granddaughter.

The vanishing practice of Apatanis

The Apatani women of Ziro Valley in Arunachal Pradesh are known for their facial tattoos and wooden nose plugs; banned in the 1970s, the tradition now survives only among older women

Ritu Raj Konwar
rituraj.k@thehindu.co.in

The Apatanis live in the Ziro Valley of the lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. Ziro Valley is a bowl-shaped, picturesque land tucked into the lower ranges of the eastern Himalayas.

The Apatani women of Arunachal Pradesh were once known for their distinctive facial tattoos and nose plugs – a tradition that began as a means of protection against abduction and later evolved into a symbol of beauty and cultural identity. The Apatani men came up with the idea of nose plugs and tattoos with the intention of making their women appear less attractive to invaders. However, the practice was banned in the early 1970s, and, today, it is primarily seen only among older women, representing the last generation of this fading tradition.

Many Apatani women believe that large nose plugs and tattoos define them as members of the tribe. Even with the plugs, they are able to breathe through the nose.

The nose plugs, called *yaping hullo*, are made from wood found in the forest. The wood must first be cleaned to avoid infection. The tattoos, known as *tippei*, are done by the elder women when an Apatani girl is about 10 years old.

The tradition of using large wooden nose plugs and tattoos were passed down from generation to generation. Women who followed it were considered honourable and were seen as protecting family dignity. However, in the early 1970s, the government banned the practice as it posed social hindrances, particularly for women seeking employment in cities.

Nowadays, not many Apatanis are seen using nose plugs and tattoos. Most are older women who consider the tradition an integral part of being Apatani. They remain proud of their identity.

Symbols of time: Older Apatani women in Ziro Valley continue to embody the fading tradition of *yaping hullo* (nose plugs) and *tippei* (tattoos).

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35 YRS old Doctor MD Anesthesiology 165 slim fair, pretty and cultured . Father Cardiac surgeon Chennai, Nair Tharavad palghat and Thrissur area. Looking for doctor grooms and engineers.9840050381/ 9840985383

HINDU DKV 30/156 Mutual Divorced (No Kids) MBBS, MD (Patho) Coimbatore based Working in Pvt Hospital 12L p.a seeks suitable Groom Doctor or any Professionals CT: 8778656704.

MD GENERAL Medicine, DM girl 32/156 seeks suitable groom. 9497168001, 9447493034

HINDU, EZHAVA, 30yr MS Surgeon doing DM Neurosurgery seeks suitable groom from kerala. ph 8848140919

Hindu Nadar, 31, 165cms very Fair, Doctor, Cardiology Fellowship. Hailing from highly affluent family. Currently working as a Cardiologist. Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lives in US. Seeking an upstanding, well qualified, Professional, preferably a Doctor Groom working in USA.
Ct: +91 9791994449
vsajsr@gmail.com

ENGINEER

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FINANCE / BANKING

SC, AD, Bank Employee, Age : 31, Tirupati. Wanted Bank Employee or Government Employee. Ct : 90001 80420

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

HINDU DEVENDRA Kula Vellalar girl 29yrs, 163cm, 65 Kg, B.Tech (IT), CIT, Coimbatore. Bsc Fasion tech, (MSc Psychology) Father–General Manager(Retd)IOCLMother–Home maker, Brother–B.E (Mech) preparing UPSC. Upper Middle class family. Seeks groom qualified, clean habits, family values–state/Central Govt employees, Caste no bar. Contact: 7550307487/ 9444401218

WANTED SUITABLE groom from good family background for a Bengali, Brahmin girl brought up in Kolkata, pretty, fair, 5', 35, B.Tech, M.S, Manager in a Nationalized Bank. State No Bar. Contact: 9830534899/8240948938.

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HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda 30, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175.

NRI

GROOM WANTED - NRE NAIR GIRL, 51, MSc, PHD, Never married, US Citizen, Chicago, Caste No Bar, Malayalam Tamil US Residency only.Contact : 9895824803

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL, Doctor (MD General Medicine), 28/154 cm (12-10-1996), Atham, Thiruvananthapuram District invites proposals from Doctors (Preferable) and other suitable professionals. 9447963211.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, Age 30, B.E, MS, Manager at MNC Bangalore, Income 30 Lakhs. Contact 8137003548.

CHRISTIAN, CSI, Age 26, B.E Completed, Upper middle class family. Contact 8137003516.

CHRISTIAN, DOCTOR, 38 Years Unmarried, Well Settled Family. Seeks Unmarried Doctor Groom. Ct: 75502 86805

CHENNAI BASED CSI Christian Nadar, Only daughter (29), MBBS, Pursuing MD General Medicine, Well–educated family seeks suitable groom. 9498336141

CHRISTIAN RC, Age 29,MDS, Doctor, 10L CT 8138900316

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC ,31, MD , USA , 1 Crore, CT 7356483111

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC, 29, MS, Doctor, 50L, CT 8138900312

MUSLIM MBBS, (MD) 27/163 Chennai seeks educated groom WhatsApp 9444721694

CHRISTIAN, RC, 30 MDS, Doctor, 10 Lakhs CT 8138900316

CHRISTIAN COSMOPOLITAN 30 yr MS(US) , Architect beautiful v fair girl working in Chennai looking for a handsome well settled groom from similar background. Call 9884067923 / 9884012383

TAMIL MUSLIM Auditor family Bride 23Yrs BHMS– Homoeopathy Doctor. Wanted Chennai Settled Professional Groom. Whatapp: 7845136035

✔ **MUSLIM SLIM girl 38 yrs, look for qualified, employed, never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

TAMIL HINDU Nadar, B.Tech (CS) working in Cisco Bangalore,Rs 27 LPA 30/160cm, Moolam / Dhanush seeks groom with similar educational and career background. Ct: 91768 00819

HINDU SC 35/172 B.Tech Govt Bank Manager, B'lore 10L/pa Divorcee, unconsumated. Christians ok. 8939574245

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, Age 48, Divorced, M.A, Police at Madurai, Income 15 Lakhs. Ct 8138900547

HINDU NADAR 27yrs, B.Arch, MS (US) , Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

HASTHAM 37 Fair MCA chennai seeks Mudaliar/Pillai professionaly Qulfd working Groom 8220757159/ 9444136336

HINDU SCAD 38yrs, Working in TCS Chennai as Senior Software Engineer 1.40Lakh/pm seeks qualified employed Groom. Ct: 9952147216 / 8838034943

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 23yrs ,168cm legally adopted MBA girl Chennai, professional parents looking for Chennai based upper middle class boy. whatsapp 9444469327

VANNIA KULA Kshatriya Girl, 32years, 155cm, MDS(Dentist), working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai. Star Moolam 4padam, Dhanusu Rasi. Contact: 9382167197 / 9962781009

MBA IIM, B.Tech Naidu 163/ Nov 89, Product Manager, Bangalore 30L/pa seeks well settled grooms earning 30L & above. Age between34 to 39yrs. Working Bangalore/ Hyderabad/ Abroad. Caste No bar. Ct: 9962259162

VISWAKARMA, 25YRS, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

HINDU NADAR, divorced, BE, Business, 15L CT 8137003549

HINDU MUDHALIYAR, Age 30, MBA, Consultant, 10L, CT 8138901281

IYER GIRL 41 yrs, Issueless Divorcee, (G)Koundanya. Seeks Qualified, Well Employed, Compatible Groom. Community Iyer, Saiva Pillai / Mudaliyar(Veg). Prefered Location Chennai Only. Ct 9940332928

TAMIL

CASTE NO Bar 31yrs, B.Tech, Divorce, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9962791888

HINDU REDDY Fair, Slim PG Specialist Doctor 34/165 cms in Private Practice from Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Never Married Groom From Elite Family CNB CT:8925640111

RC NADAR, 27yrs, BE, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

CHENNAI–BASED HINDU Bride, 33 yrs, 153 cm, Mudaliyar, MBA, Working in US, Divorced (Having 4 Yrs Kid). Open to Divorced/Widowed Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220765305

SC, AD, 25, MBA, Star –Rohini, Pvt. IT Job, Wanted Suitable Groom Chennai Only . Ct: 94445 73205

GROOM WANTED (age 27 to 29) to Tamil NRI bride Age 26 Monthly salary 4 Lakhs. Mobile+917395947749.

HINDU MUDALIAR 27/158 Sathayam,BE Empl Seeks Groom,Same Community Employed in MNC/Gvt/Bank/NRI 9884245637

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 35/158 Divorced (No issues) Manager MNC, Chennai 25L/pa seeks qualified well employed progressive thinking groom from TN/ Karnataka. Caste No bar. 9841055850

VANNIER 27/168CM MBBS MPH doing MRCS UK seeks PG Doctor Vannier in UK.Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR (CNB) 24/V.Fair, B.E, MS (UK), Running own Education Institution, Chennai, Rich Family, Seeks Groom– Business / Doctor – 8925019776

MUDALIAR (CNB) 25/V.Fair, MBBS, MD doing Final year, Chennai, only daughter, well settled family – seeks groom Doctor/ Eng – 7358510790

ADIDRAVIDAR AGE 25 BE Pvt Wipro Sal:40000 / well settled wants suitable groom. 8122289871 / 9444139323

MUDALIYAR DOCTOR 27/175 MD Paediatric seeks Doctor, Professional, Business suitable Grooms 9791053568

THIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai girl, 25, BE(CSc) wkg in MNC as Software Engineer. Parents invite proposals from respectable, strict vegetarian families of same caste. Looking for a well educated B.E/B.Tech grooms wkg in same profession and settled in bangalore. Pl Share Horoscope. sk_pillai@outlook.com 6364789344

HINDU SC/AD, 39/163cm fair, BTech (CSE), SWP, Moolam Dhansu, never married, Chennai seeks proffesionally qualified never married groom below 42yrs from India / abroad. Caste No Bar. Contact: 87545 66571

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 9498313625

HINDU, MUDHALIYAR, 30 Private 10 Lakhs. CT 8138900412

HINDU, CHETTIAR, 30, MD, Doctor 30 lakhs. CT 8138901281

HINDU, 27, Intercaste, BE, Govt job,15 lakhs. CT 9048444858

DKV 33YRS Fair B.Tech MBA IIT Working MNC 24 Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Match CNB Ph: 9940507235

Hindu -Tamil, Viswakarma, 28, BE, MS(UK) with work visa, Seeks Bridegroom in UK. Contact: 73055-28980.

MUDALIAR 25, M Tech, 162cm Good Looking well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct.8778514465 / 7200866346

MUDALIAR 26/167 Beautiful BE MS, SWE, Amazon, USA,80000. USD. PA,Well Settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

GROOM WANTED for Vathima Brahmin Girl 33, BSc+MBA Fair Energetic, Working in B'lore, Novo Nordisk a Good Salary Sub–Sect No Bar. Age Difference 0–4yrs Ct:9884222614/ 9677019636

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CONTACT:
Mobile: 00966500268681
Whatsapp: 0097455626509

TAMIL

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Chettiar / Mudaliyar / Gounder
Educated, affluent business family seeks educated, handsome groom with high moral values and clean habits from well-settled families with similar background for their daughter (26 yrs/167 cm / Magaram Raasi), Master degree in UK. Rahu Ketu dosham present.
Contact :
98439-66666

MUDALIAR GIRL 28/165cm B.Com, MBA, Fair looking Upper Middle Class Mirugasirisam. seeks suitable groom from Respectable family. 9444547499

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44 Yrs /165cm/ SWE/ Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar. seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM girl, 94born ,164cm , B.Tech ,never married,working in PSU bank Mumbai.U.P.based family well settled in Rajasthan. Father retired Addl.Director. #9461179587

SEEKING PROFESSIONALLY qualified Sunni Muslim boy for my daughter. She is a doctor (age 28 and 166 cm) , now doing MD and settled in Sydney, Australia. Please send biodata first on +61402612128

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

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Affluent Hindu family from Trivandrum, well-established in healthcare, hospitality & education sectors, for over 5 decades, invite alliance for their 33-year-old only son, an Orthopedic Surgeon. He is legally separated (no children).
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krishtvm71@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

SMART, HANDSOME 33, 170cm, AUS–educated consultant. Cultured S Indian family. Seeks compatible bride. Caste no bar. Call or WA 9345634365.

MALAYALAM

PROPOSAL ARE invited from parents of educated Christian girls for a boy 31/BTech/Executive in the Government sector in Middle East. Evangelical, Marthoma, Orthodox or CSI denominations preferred. Call 8606508759/7025222989

NAIR POORAM 27 B.Com, Kollam Well Settled Owns Businesses, seek same/ allied caste girl. Ct: 9381045556.

NAIR, UTHARATTATHI, 31, B Arch, Bangalore, well settled, affluent, Handsome seeks same / allied caste girl, contact – 9654642944

NRI

NAIDU 30/180CM, Pooratathi, BTech, MS, Working as Research Engineer in Sweden. Call Parent 9566682220

TAMIL

HINDU, KONGU vellala gounder, Age 28, B.Com, doing business at Coimbatore, Income 50 Lakhs. Contact 8138901294.

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, Age 31, B.E, IT professional, Income 8 Lakhs. Contact 8137003549

HINDU, BRAHMIN, Age 24, B.Tech, Web Developer at Bangalore, Income 15 Lakhs. Contact 8138002746

HINDU, PILLAI, Age 27, M.Sc Completed, IT professional at Madurai, from good family background. Contact 8138900557.

PILLAI 44 Divorcee M.Com Central Govt servant seeks bride caste no bar 9094020665

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 31 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

HINDU MUDALIAR 34/165 M.Tech Class 4 Marine Engr, seeks bride from any caste & good family. Ct:9791507303

RICH MUDALIYAR, 28yrs, BE,Industralist, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride 6385293227

NAIDU 33YRS working in MNC seeks educated & employed Naidu (sub caste any) Bride Chennai 9498072042

TAMIL YADAVA:30/(165CM),B.TECH,LEAD Data Scientist @ IT–MNC (Chennai),Salary 50LPA,Residing at own 3BHK flat in chennai.Seeks working bride(Professional) from same caste.Ct:9840494566

37/175 B.Tech MS London Vanniyar Kullasathiryan working Senior Software Engineer in Europe country earning 6 digit salary per month Seeking good looking bride with degree holder ct : 81228 03880

30/180 BE Vanniyar Kullasathiryan working Associate Manager in reputed IT organisation earning 6 digit salary per month Seeks fair bride with degree holder Contact 63822 23144

IYER KASYAB Barani 39/180 Mutual Divorcee Double Masters, Ph.D Thesis Employed Germany Seeks Qualified Unmarried Bride Willing Relocate Germany. Ct: 9444551216 / 04426861097

PILLAI, 1984, Uthiradam, 2ndMarriage, M.Com, IT Sal–90k, Own House,1st, 2nd marriage ok. 8754756329

Iyer, 1989, Uthirattathi, BA –Sanskrit, Own House & Padasala. 2L Per month. Iyer, Iyengar ok. 7305460763

BAVENRO M.PHARM 27/M, 6ft, Hindu, Nadar Seeks alliance from Pharmaceutical Bus Background NoBrk 9952023992

BE IIT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC, in Hyderabad Sal 90 lacs seeks Bride from same or Allied Castes Tamil, Telugu. Ct: 7382620365

HINDU NADAR 28yrs B.Tech 3lakhs/pm, Elite Business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIYAR, UTHIRAM, 30/172, B.Tech MBA, 65L PA, working in Delhi, Chennai Native, Non–Veg CNB. 8939130284

39, 10TH Nadar Gramani, Transport Work Seeks bride Brokers Excuse. Ct: 9962154905 / 7299391299

MUDALIAR 26/180, Own Business Seeks Suitable High Profile Bride Geetham 9884858014

KARUNEEGAR REMARRIAGE 39/170 BE, Chicago USA Seeks Suitable Bride CNB. Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR 33/172 BE, California USA Seeks Suitable Bride CNB. Geetham 9884858014

CHENNAI, NAIDU/BE/49, IT 3L/month, IT, Divorced seeks suitable bride from India/US. Ph. 9445691753

HINDU, REDDY, Age 26, MBA, IT Professional,15L, CT 8137003548

HINDU, PILLAI, 27, BE, Consultant, 20L, CT 8138009235

HINDU, UDAYAR, Age 29, Architect, 1 crore, CT 8138901294

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

HINDU, ENGINEER, widower, sengunthamudhaliyar, 56/155, financially secure, non–vegetarian, non–smoker, seeks homely woman, 40–50, for re–marriage, contact 9514551155, Ravibalasubra@gmail.com with biodata, photo

GROOM:M.VIJAYAKANTH S/O Mahendravarman 9283258852:Vanniyar 33 yrs Fair, Slim, BE. Bride: Age diff min 4yrs.

TAMIL

HINDU, NADAR, MS, Doctor 10 lakhs. CT 7356483111

HINDU, NAIDU, 25, M.Sc, Business 10Lakhs. CT 8138009144

HINDU, UDAYAR, 29, B.Arch, Business, 1 crore. CT 8138900312

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9940507235

MUDALIAR/YADAV 33, BE , MBA. Working as Associate manager HR with HCL technologies seeks educated girl. Caste no bar.9884212125 / 7708209879

PILLAI 35/177 BE MBA SWE MNC Bank 21LPA Chennai seeks suitable bride. CNB. Horoscope matching not mandatory.Brok excuse. 9500147451

GAVARA NAIDU Affluent family Chennai 29/165 ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Business, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram, CNB. Call: 9841097110

HINDU NADAR, 41yrs/185cm, M.Tech(IIT Madras), Sr. Principal Engineer(Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, teetotaller, seeks never married, suitable bride, Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

WELL–EDUCATED ARCOT Mudaliar, Aged 36, Residing in US West Coast. Working as Sr Manager in a Tech firm with MBA & MSC from reputed Ivy League & Singapore universities.Seeking well–educated & driven bride with shared values , preferably based in US. Call (or) Whatsapp: +65 90610927

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 28yrs 177cm, B.Tech, 2lakhs pm, Elite business family K.A.Ramannadar 9380791999

RICH MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9962791888

HINDU SC AD Magam 28/ 174 B.Tech, MBA Pvt Sector from wealthy family seeks good looking girl. 9940247835

WANTED BRIDE for Tall Fair Handsome Groom,28/183cm, BE(ECE) from respectable Sozhiya Vellala Pillai/ Thuluva Vellala Mudaliar Family Seeks a Suitable Bride Age 21 to 25 yrs from Similar Community. Birth Star Mirugashesam 4th Padam Horoscope Matching Essential Call: 99629 23020/WhatsApp

CHETTIAR/ MUDALIAR/ Pillai: Seeking bride from similar background for educated handsome boy from affluent family 29/172, B.Tech, MS, working in Bangalore as PM – 9384827999

ALLIANCE INVITED for 5'11", Kerala Vadama Iyer, 28, engineer, employed in UK as Data Scientist, family oriented, strict teetotaller, vegetarian. Punardham, Uditya Gothram. Details, horoscope to sc1234@gmail.com

TAMIL BRAHMIN Ph.D, fair, athletic & fit US Citizen, Executive, 60/180 widowed after great marriage, 2 sons (working & living independently) seeks Hindu, Brahmin life partner preferably US/ Canadian citizen/ having US Visa, 50–60yrs. Mail profile & photo to: anoname2021@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYER Boy,31, Magam, B.Tech, Reputed IT Co., Chennai, Seeks Brahmin Graduate Girl. Ct: 9940352807

TAMIL MUSLIM 37 Years, 160 CM, 30000 PM, Tambaram Contact - 9444009880

TAMIL

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

BRIDE WANTED
(Caste No Bar)
Neelankarai ECR CHENNAI Handsome Fair 175cms / 31 yrs. Mithunam / Thiruvathirai Business professional Rich/Affluent groom seeks good looking Homely fair Bride from Vanniyar/Pillai/ Mudaliyar/Gounder.
9384488269
(Preferably within Tamil Nadu)

Dr 27yrs, MS orthopaedics, Chennai based, from Dr's family, seeking a suitable bride from well settled, well educated, Hindu family, CNB. Contact 9543688398 by WhatsApp only. No brokers / agencies

TELUGU

KAMMANAIDU 33/165/SOFTWARE Engineer/12L PA Seeks Educated Bride From Decent Family. 9840036209/ 9444363481

RICH NAIDU, 30yrs, B.Tech, MBA, 4lakhs pm, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

AGE 27, 171cms B.E Software Engineer Chennai 11Lacs P.A Seeks Bride 22–25 Employed Any Naidu 6369300716.

HINDU GAVARA Naidu, age 40 / Ht. 170 cm working in 5 star hotel, Sous chef (abroad) Salary 1 lakh / month. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9003194290.

DIVORCED 49/ 167CM No Issue, B.E, Pvt Job, Only Son,10–Acre Agri Land, Caste No Bar. Call: 9790271078

BALIJA NAIDU 34/170 Moolam Dhanusu Fair Slim MS Working US Boston H1B Seeks Fair Bride India/Abroad. Subsect No Bar. 9841209119/ 9444222466.

BALIJA NAIDU 32yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Manufacturer & Distributors) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

GROOM WORKING in Andhra, Caste: Kappu, Salary: Rs.20,000 p.m., B.Tech I.T., inherits father's property, Age:35, Height: 5'7" Contact: 9962432800

NAIDU 31/182 Handsome, MBBS, MD, DM–Cardiology, 5000000.PA, Elite Family,50Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

SMU 27/175 cm BE MBA working in MNC Chennai family seeks pious Muslimah professionally qualified bride from respectable family. 9884624899

SUNNI MUSLIM 39/178 cm M.Tech (Automotive Consultant in MNC), Legally divorced seeks educated religious bride for second marriage. Divorcee or widow preferred without kids from Chennai or other states. Contact: 7871259345

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

Wanted GROOM (Tamil/Telugu)
Distinguished Alliance Invited
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We cordially invite proposals for our "ONLY DAUGHTER", aged 23 years, Height 155 cm, Graceful and Accomplished. She is professionally employed in Washington State, USA, and holds Permanent Residency.
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24 MANAI CHETTIAR, 27, 183 cms, Businessman, BE & MS(UK). Lives in Pollachi. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

DEVAR AGAMUDAYAR, 26, 163 cms, Businessman, MS (UK),. Lives in Madurai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from Business family in Agamudayar caste. Contact: 6366448343

CHETTIAR, 30, 178 cms, Doctor, MBBS, Studying MPH. Lives in US (New York). Family of Professionals. Looking for a suitable match from similar community in US or ready to relocate to US. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN, 29, 180 cms, CA, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from Roman, Syrian and Latin Catholic Christian with Malayalam mother tongue. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 29, 163 cms, Divorced, M.Arch, Entrepreneur. Lives in Pondicherry. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 24, 165 cms, BBA LLB, Working Professional. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

VISHWAKARMA, 23, 160 cms, MBBS, Family Business. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off and lives in Madurai. Looking for a suitable match from Business family match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 24, 180 cms, Masters. Lives in Chennai. Professional family. Looking for a like minded match from any similar community from Chennai or Bangalore. Contact: 6366448343

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TELUGU

KAMMA NAIDU, 26yrs, MBBS, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

RICH NAIDU, 30yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Industrial background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 6385293227

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 25yrs, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 6385293227

RICH NAIDU, 26yrs, M.com, CA, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU, 31YRS, BE, MS (UC BERKELEY) Well Educated Elite business family Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:6385293227

COSMOPOLITAN

BRIDE WANTED Alliance invited from Senior IAS Officer (R) for his Son 31/178cm, MBA Finance, Premier B School. Oil PSU, Currently Posted in Mumbai, likely to move to Bangalore. Maharashtrian/ Tamil Parents, Settled in Chennai. Expecting CA/ CS, MBA/ Doctor/ Lawyer. Caste / language No Bar. Whatsapp: 7305236868

1992 BORN Mudaliar / Pillai Well Qualified & Settled Short Lived & Unconsummated Divorcee .Seeks Bride from Elite Family 1st or 2nd Marriage. Whatapp–9442618940

DIVORCEE

GROOM, 43, Divorced (No Kids) Engineer, MNC Chennai. Seeking well–Educated, Working Partner (No Kids) from Yadav/ Pillai/ Mudaliyar Families. Contact: 98410 47279

IYER TAMIL Divorcee Boy 50yrs SWE MNC Chennai Educated Respectable Family High Salary seeks minimum graduate girl without issues. Simple marriage no demands. Caste No Bar. 9841942915.

DOCTOR

LOOKING FOR a Hindu, medical–doctor bride for our ONLY son, 26 years of age (173 cms), US Citizen, US MD (Internal Medicine); elite family. Telephone / WhatsApp: + 1 331–218–5068; Email: sauwa7@gmail.com.

WANTED BRIDE
Udaiyar or Muthaliyar, MBBS., DNB, 29 yrs, 5.4". SR. Dr. AIIMS Patna, Elite Family, Proposed Own Hospital Expected MBBS / DNB / MD / MS.
Contact
73389 34115

TAMIL

TAMIL CATHOLIC boy 29 yrs naturalised citizen of USA, Bachelors in Visual Communication, very good in sports with mild autism seeks devout catholic girl. Contact 919786640755.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 28yrs/182cm, M.Tech, working at Bangalore, 22 Lacs p.a seeks Bangalore employed Bride from same community. 9842123428

43YRS RC Christian with 5yr daughter, MBA, IT Job @ CBE Seek widow or Divorcee Bride without Child from Coimbatore/Near by City. 9894030321.

TAMIL MUSLIM 28 yr old ME graduate working in Chennai seeking bride of age 23–27 BE or any Master degree, working or willing to work. Ct 9361134612

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39/169, M.D Paediatric, Neonatologist, profession in Trivandrum, Fair, Handsome, Divorce - No Kids. Seeks fair, Doctor/Non Medico Bride, age 30 to 35, preferably South India, Caste no bar. Contact: 86100 20066, 94433 26119

TAMIL MUSLIM 27/177 MD. Seeks prof qualified bride Ct : 82200 42091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 33, BE, Engineer, 20 lakhs. CT 8138900316

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

HINDU–TAMIL BOY 34yrs/BE/SWE/ 172cms/25LPA/Sc/Ayillam. Settled in Bangalore, well–educated and financially stable. Looking for compatible match. Contact 9845401461.

VELLALAR PILLAI / MUDALIYAR. B.Tech. MBA. HR. IT. Chennai. Poorattadhi, 30 / 167 Cm. N.V. Well settled, educated family. Seeks SW / HR / Finance / CA Professional. 9444367697

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 24, DCE, Business, Income 20 Lakhs. Contact 8138901189.

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Complainant remanded in 14-day judicial custody

Chinnaiah, has been taken to a prison in Shivamogga; his custody with SIT ended on Saturday

DHARMASTHALA CASE

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A court in Belthangady on Saturday remaned 45-year-old Chinnaiah, the complainant in the Dharmasthala case, in judicial custody for 14 days. Later, the police took him to a prison in Shivamogga.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing the case, produced Chinnaiah, the former sanitation worker, before the Additional Civil Judge and JMFC H. Vijayendra after the SIT custody ended on Saturday.

The SIT searched two service apartments in Bengaluru where Chinnaiah stayed.

SIT has questioned a YouTuber, and a notice has been issued to another who were said to have recorded the exhumation of the skeletal remains

The SIT on Saturday questioned Vittal Gowda, uncle of Soujanya, who was raped and murdered, near Dharmasthala, in October 2012. It was in connection with the probe into the skeletal remains produced by Chinnaiah before the magistrate. Gowda was taken to Banglagudde for 'mazahar' and brought back to the SIT office in Belthangady.

The SIT has already searched the houses of activist Mahesh Shetty Timarody and his brother Mohan Shetty, where Chinnaiah stayed before he was arrested by the SIT.

The police have questioned activist T. Jayanth and searched his house in Bengaluru where Chinnaiah had stayed with skeletal remains for a few days before moving to New Delhi and then returning to Dharmasthala in Bengaluru to lodge the complaint with the police.

The SIT searched two service apartments in Bengaluru where Chinnaiah stayed.

It has questioned YouTuber Abhishek, and a notice has been issued to another YouTuber Abdul Munaf from Kozhikode. The two were said to have recorded the exhumation of the skeletal remains by Chinnaiah and put it on social media.

T.N. Congress MP files defamation case against Janardhana Reddy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sasikanth Senthil, Congress MP from Tamil Nadu and former IAS officer from Karnataka, has filed a criminal defamation case against Bharatiya Janata Party MLA and former Minister G. Janardhana Reddy, for his statements linking him [Mr. Senthil] to a "conspiracy to defame Dharmasthala".

Mr. Senthil filed the case before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court on Saturday.

Speaking to presspersons here on Saturday, he asserted that he had no connection with the Dharmasthala case and rejected the allegations made by Mr. Reddy.

Mr. Senthil said that the "baseless allegations" made against him were part of a coordinated attack by the "Hindutva right-wing forces" against him for opposing their politics.

Sasikanth Senthil speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru on Saturday.

> Political considerations of Tamil Nadu also seem to be having an impact here

'Court took cognisance'

"Political considerations of Tamil Nadu also seem to be having an impact here," he said.

"I have filed a criminal defamation case against Mr. Reddy, who had taken my name. The court has taken cognisance of it. He will be served a notice. He [Mr. Reddy] will have to come and answer in court on what basis the allegations were made against me," Mr. Senthil said.

Hearing on Sept. 11

Mr. Senthil said that the hearing on the case would be on September 11.

Gaganachukki Jalapathotsava on Sept. 13, 14

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Gaganachukki Jalapathotsava will be celebrated in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district on September 13 and 14.

Announcing this at a press conference in Mandya on Friday, MLA for Malavalli P.M. Narendraswamy, who is also the Chairperson of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KPSCB), said that a two-day programme had been chalked out on the occasion to transform Gaganachukki into an attractive tourist destination so that a large number of visitors turn up at the enchanting waterfalls for the occasion.

He also appealed to the public to attend the celebrations in large numbers.

Man held for attempting to assault auto driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Pulakeshi Nagar Police on Friday arrested a 33-year-old man for allegedly attempting to assault an autorickshaw driver and causing damage to his vehicle in a road-rage incident near Lingarajapuram flyover in the city on Friday. The accused has been identified as Sharath Shamsundar.

The accused allegedly tried to attack an autorickshaw driver using a knife. Although he was unsuccessful in attempt, he reportedly caused damage to the vehicle. The accused is a resident of Bagalur Layout and worked as a pourakarmika on a contract basis.

A passer-by recorded the incident on his mobile phone and uploaded it on social media which went viral. Following this, the Pulakeshi Nagar Police tracked down the accused with the help of local intelligence.

Investigation revealed that the accused was a habitual offender, and was arrested earlier for planning a dacoity. The accused reportedly came out on bail and was on the run without attending court hearings.

Election Commission risks losing credibility, warns SC advocate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Supreme Court advocate Sanjay Hegde on Saturday raised concerns over the credibility of the Election Commission of India, cautioning that the institution is increasingly being viewed as partisan.

Speaking at 'Gauri Day 2025' on 'SIR and the role of Election Commission of India: Is democracy in peril?' in Bengaluru, Mr. Hegde said that instead of leaning towards voter inclusion, the Election Commission "appeared more focused on exclusions that disproportionately affect minorities and the poor."

"An Election Commission bent on striking off names is bound to disenfranchise large sections of undocumented and vulnerable citizens," he said, adding that this undermines trust in the fairness of elections.

Pointing out that the credibility of the Commission has historically been the backbone of India's democratic resilience, he criticised the current system of appointing Election Commissioners, where the government retains decisive control, despite the Supreme Court recommending the inclusion of the Chief Justice of India in the process. "If the Commission is seen as partisan, the public will view elections as a fixed match," Mr. Hegde warned.

Supreme Court advocate Sanjay Hegde speaking at a seminar at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Journalist Dinesh Amin Mattu described the current controversies surrounding electoral processes as "symptoms" of a deeper malaise within India's election system. Speaking on electoral accountability, he noted that while debates once centred on EVMs and now on voter rolls, the underlying problem was the lack of structural reform.

"The real issue is not just in Bihar or elsewhere; it is the larger disease that has crept into the system," Mr. Mattu said.

In the panel discussion that followed, activists and civil society representatives voiced concerns over large-scale exclusions from electoral rolls in Bihar and the continuing uncertainty around the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

Participants flagged the notification of a "special intensive revision" of voter lists in Bihar as deeply flawed, noting that it seeks to weed out "illegal immigrants" – a mandate that goes beyond the Election Commission's role.

Concerns were also raised about privileging certain groups such as bureaucrats and sportspersons while subjecting ordinary citizens, especially minorities, women, and migrant workers, to scrutiny.

Science-based problem solving should take an inclusive approach, says academic

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Noting that science-based problem solving should take an inclusive approach, Manu Prakash, professor at Stanford University, said people should have access to the right set of tools.

Prof. Prakash was talking at a lecture held by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and the Murty Trust.

"I live in San Francisco where streets are covered with self-driving cars. On the other hand, we have tremendous challenges like Malaria that need to be solved. But we choose the wrong problems to work on sometimes," he said, adding that a remarkable number of tools that have been built for other purposes that could be repurposed.

— President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia
July 13, 2015 (Ebola outbreak)
Community health workers play the most important and effective role in the fight against disease; it is they who have reached the most vulnerable

Manu Prakash, Professor of Bioengineering at Stanford University, U.S., at a public talk organised by NCBS in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Prof. Prakash, who is known for the "frugal science movement" and innovations like foldscope, stressed the importance of wider access to the right set of tools.

Given the lack of adequate scientists and doctors across the globe, he pointed out that the role of community health workers was paramount and their access to the right set of tools critical.

"What are the kind of tools that we can provide these individuals? We can work with individuals, but we have to provide them the right kind of scientific tools. One such tool is foldscope. You can build on any of these tools, we open-source almost everything we do," Prof. Prakash said, terming the platform developed by his team an "app-store for diagnostics".

Noting that children across the world today use foldscope, Prof. Prakash said that the world needs to be more "ambitious".

"We have to look at everybody as a baseline. It's not sufficient for science to thrive just in Bengaluru. It has to thrive in every corner of the country. To a certain extent, that responsibility falls on many of our political partners, and on us as scientists," said Prof. Prakash.

KAS officer's acts *prima facie* 'deeply seeped in corruption', says HC, while refusing to quash disproportionate assets case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that acts of KAS officer B. Sudha *prima facie* were "deeply seeped in corruption", the High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash a disproportionate assets case against her while vacating the stay order, which restrained the Lokayukta police from filing a chargesheet against her without the court's permission.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by Ms. Sudha and her husband, Stroiny Joseph Pais, who is arraigned as accused no. 2 in the first information report (FIR).

"Quoting contents of the chargesheet in this order would undoubtedly prejudice defence of the petitioners before the concerned court. Therefore, this court desists from quoting contents/observations in the chargesheet. But would undoubtedly observe that the offences are grave, *prima facie* all of them

are met and the acts of petitioner no. 1 [Ms. Sudha] in particular, are deeply seeped in corruption," the court observed in its order.

What material indicates

"...*Prima facie* the material available on the strength of enormous documents collected during the investigation, would undoubtedly require a trial," the court said while stating that it was for the petitioners to come out clean in a full-fledged trial.

As the High Court in August, 2024, restrained the Lokayukta police from filing the investigation report before a special court for Lokayukta cases without its permission, the Lokayukta police, after completion of investigation, had submitted the proposed chargesheet, with documents, before the High Court.

While rejecting the accused KAS officer's contention that the probe conducted was contrary to the law, the High Court said that as Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act dealt with offences for disproportionate assets, there was no need for prior approval from the competent authority for conducting investigation.

The High Court also found no lapse on the part of the special court in referring the complaint for investigation.

Background

The special court, acting on a private compliant lodged by one Abraham T.J., on August 20, 2020, had referred the complaint for investigation to the then Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). After the ACB was wound up, the FIR was transferred to the Lokayukta police.

It was alleged in the complaint that Ms. Sudha, when she was serving as Assistant Commissioner and Land Acquisition Officer of the Bangalore Development Authority, had indulged in huge corruption and purchased several immovable properties in Bengaluru, Udupi, and Doddaballapur worth several crores of rupees, allegedly using the amount received through bribe from landowners.

It was alleged that she was collecting bribe through some agents, who had tipped off the complainant.

The complainant had alleged that during the processing of the files related to land acquisition, Ms. Sudha was providing contact details of landowners to her agents, who then were collecting bribe from landowners for award of compensation for acquired lands.

Govt. of Bihar

Department of Information Technology
Government of Bihar

BIHAR IT POLICY 2024

Boosting Investment, Employment & Development in IT/ITES & ESDM sector in Bihar

Best-in-Class Fiscal Incentives

30%
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or
Interest Subvention Subsidy
10% Interest Subvention up to 50% of project cost or ₹40 Cr whichever is less for 5 years

50%
Lease Rental
50% subsidy of the lease rental amount for 5 years

25%
Power Tariff Subsidy
Annual reimbursement of 25% of Energy Bill for 5 years

100%
Employment Generation Subsidy
Reimbursement of 100% of the employer's contribution of ESI and EPF up to ₹ 5,000 per employee per month for 5 years

100%
Net SGST
100% Net SGST Reimbursement for 5 years

PR No.- 013982 (IT)D. 2025-26

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Shri Sumit Kumar: +91-8527054600
Shri Jayant Yagnik: +91-9601012691
https://state.bihar.gov.in/dit/CitizenHome.html

Bowl of life: A traditional village of the Apatani tribe in Ziro Valley.

Changing times: Apatani girls in Hapoli, Ziro, on their way to school. The younger generation no longer follows the practice of nose plugs.

Steady pace: An Apatani woman donning tattoos and nose plugs on her way to work.

Bound by tradition: Elderly Apatani women in Old Ziro. They consider the tradition of nose plugs an integral part of being Apatani.

Man booked for inflammatory post on cattle theft

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Bantwal Rural police have booked Narasimha Shetty from Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada , for his alleged inflammatory post on theft and slaughter of cattle from the farmland of Geetesh in Perne village on September 4.

Dasara: Gold cards, finale event tickets available online

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

With about two weeks remaining for the commencement of the grand Dasara celebrations, the authorities have begun the sale of gold cards – premium passes granting access to all key events and some tourist destinations – along with tickets for the much-awaited Jamboo Savari and Torchlight Parade, starting from Saturday.

For the first time in recent years, the early launch of gold cards and finale event tickets will enable tourists to plan their visit well in advance to witness the spectacle.

These passes and tickets are available online at the official Dasara website *https://mysoredasara.gov.in/*.

The gold card is priced at ₹6,500, while tickets for the Jamboo Savari and the Torchlight Parade are priced at ₹3,500 and ₹1,500 per person, respectively.

Apart from entry to the Jamboo Savari, the gold card grants access for one person to visit the Mysuru palace, Chamundi Hills, Mysuru zoo, the Torchlight Parade, and the drone show.

The primary attraction for gold card holders is the prime seating in the gallery facing the palace, offering an excellent view of the Jamboo Savari procession.

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State introduces 15% NRI quota seats in government medical colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a first, Karnataka is introducing 15% NRI quota seats in government medical colleges, Sharan Prakash R. Patil, Minister for Medical Education, has announced.

The development follows the National Medical Commission (NMC) sanctioning 450 additional medical seats for the State, fulfilling a long-standing demand.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Dr. Patil said that of the 450 newly approved seats, 15% had been earmarked for NRI quota, with a fixed fee of ₹25 lakh per seat. "This will help government medical colleges become more financially self-reliant instead of depending heavily on State grants," he said.

Sharan Prakash R. Patil

These seats will be available from the academic year 2025-26, raising the total seats in the State to 9,663. Following the NEET results, the first round of seat allotment had offered 9,263 seats.

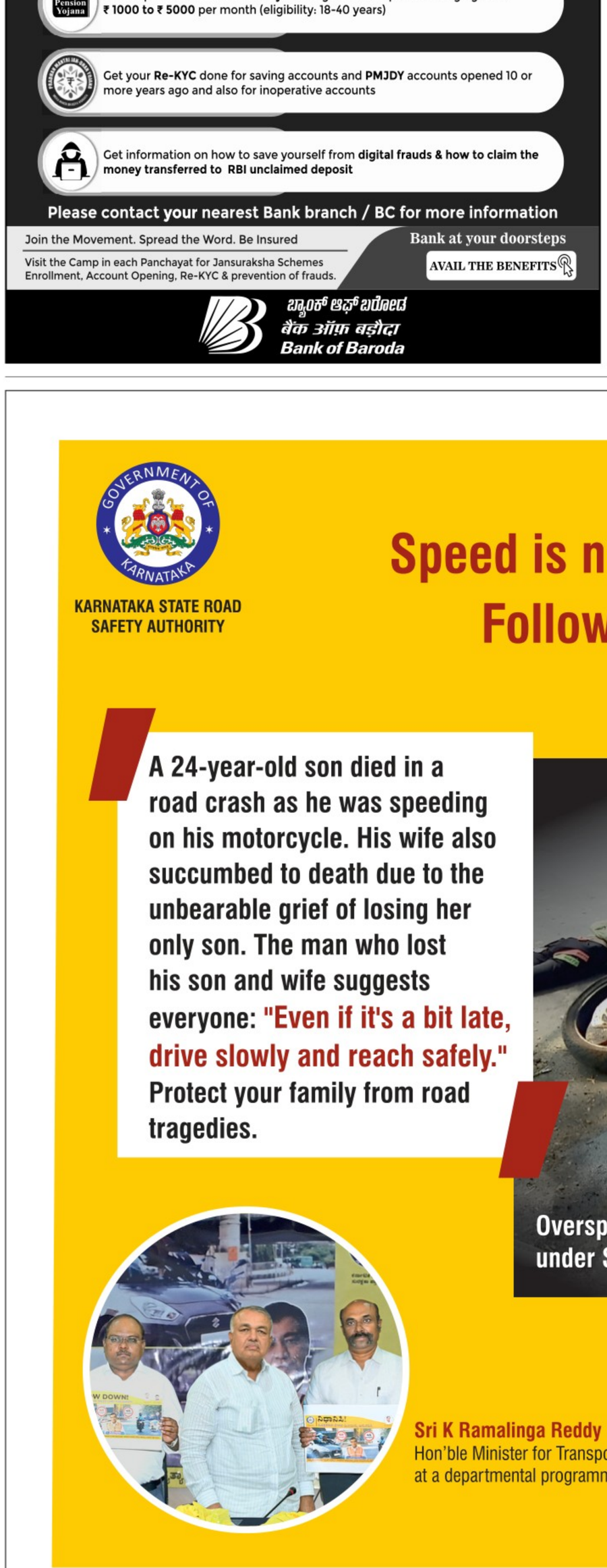
The additional seats have been distributed equally among government medical colleges in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Chickballapur, Hassan, Raichur and Vijayanagara, with each receiving 50 seats. The medical college run by the Moorusavira Mutt in Hubballi has also been granted 50 extra seats.

Colleges getting additional seats

- Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences
- Chikkaballapur Institute of Medical Sciences
- Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences
- Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences
- Mysore Medical College & Research Institute
- Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences
- Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru
- Ballari Medical College and Research centere

After NMC chairman Abhijit Chandrakant Seth announced the addition of 8,000 seats nationwide, Karnataka had submitted a proposal for additional seats in government medical colleges. "The number of students aspiring for medical education increases every year. Many meritorious students cannot afford the high fees of private colleges. Hence, we appealed for more seats, and I am glad our request has been approved," the Minister said.

Dr. Patil further announced that a Skill Summit, modelled on the Bengaluru Tech Summit, would be held on November 4, 5 and 6. Additionally, a job fair would be organised in Mysuru after the Dasara festivities, with registrations opening soon. A nursing summit would also be conducted in October, followed by an international roadshow to promote the job fair.


वित्तीय सेवाएं विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಬರೋಡ
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda
3 MONTH FINANCIAL INCLUSION SATURATION CAMPAIGN
(1st July 2025- 30th September 2025)
At Least One Camp in Every GRAM PANCHAYAT
TOTAL 2.7 LAKH CAMPS ACROSS COUNTRY
FACILITIES OFFERED IN CAMPS
Opening of PMJDY account with zero balance, no charges and free Debit card with accident insurance of ₹ 2 lakh
PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
Enrollment in PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojan afor life insurance cover of ₹ 2 lakh at a premium of only ₹ 436 per annum (eligibility: 18-50 years)
PM Suraksha Bima Yojana
Enrollment in PM Suraksha Bima yojana for accident insurance cover of ₹ 2 lakh at a premium of only ₹ 20 per annum (eligibility: 18-70 years)
Atal Pension Yojana
Subscription to Atal Pension Yojana for guaranteed pension ranging from ₹ 1000 to ₹ 5000 per month (eligibility: 18-40 years)
Get your Re-KYC done for saving accounts and PMJDY accounts opened 10 or more years ago and also for inoperative accounts
Get information on how to save yourself from digital frauds & how to claim the money transferred to RBI unclaimed deposit
Please contact your nearest Bank branch / BC for more information
Join the Movement. Spread the Word. Be Insured
Visit the Camp in each Panchayat for Jansuraksha Schemes Enrollment, Account Opening, Re-KYC & prevention of frauds.
Bank at your doorsteps
AVAIL THE BENEFITS
ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಬರೋಡ
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY
Speed is not the priority:
Follow the speed limits.
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
A 24-year-old son died in a road crash as he was speeding on his motorcycle. His wife also succumbed to death due to the unbearable grief of losing her only son. The man who lost his son and wife suggests everyone: "Even if it's a bit late, drive slowly and reach safely." Protect your family from road tragedies.
Overspeeding is a punishable offense under Section 183 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
Sri K Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzrai
at a departmental programme.
A momentary lapse can lead to
a life changing trauma for you and your family.
Drive responsibly and follow the speed limits.
Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S.
Secretary
Transport Department
A.M. Yogeesh I.A.S.
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety
J. Purushotham
Additional Commissioner & Member Secretary
Karnataka State Road Safety Authority
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New corporations to take over citizen service

'E-services, including BBMP apps such as Gundi Gamana, e-Aasthi, and the online grievance portal, will remain centralised for the time being'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Citizen services, such as trade licences, birth and death certificates, and building plan approvals, which were previously provided by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), will now be delivered by the newly formed corporations.

E-services, including BBMP applications such as Gundi Gamana, e-Aasthi, and the online grievance portal, will remain centralised for the time being and will be managed at the new Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) head office, said M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, GBA.

"To handle complaints and provide e-services, we will give each corporation hyperlinks to access grievances pertaining to their jurisdiction, while IT-related aspects will continue to be managed centrally," Mr. Rao explained.

The GBA has also launched an interactive map service to help citizens view ward boundaries and identify their respective corporations.

This means citizens can continue registering complaints and raising issues through the same e-service options offered by the BBMP. The grievances will be sorted based on jurisdiction and forwarded to the respective corporations, where officials will be responsible for addressing them. In the future, if any corporation plans to introduce new technology-based systems to handle such issues, those services will be managed at the corporation level.

For services that require in-person visits, citizens can continue to approach the same ward and zonal offices as before.

However, for certain works that earlier required a visit to the BBMP head office, citizens will still need to visit the headquarters for the next few days, until file transfers are completed. Later they can rely on main corporation offices.

"We are ensuring a smooth transition, keeping public convenience in mind. While there may be minor inconveniences during this process, these will be resolved quickly to minimise disruption," Mr. Rao assured.

Interactive map

The GBA has also launched an interactive map service to help citizens view ward boundaries and identify their respective corporations. Until the new ward boundaries are finalised, the existing ones will continue to be used for administrative purposes.

The interactive map is available on the BBMP website, and a more user-friendly version will soon be operational on Dishank.

Waste management,

The newly formed corporations have already taken up pothole repairs and are addressing issues related to garbage management. Incidents such as tree falls and broken branches are also being handled at the corporation level.

According to Mr. Rao, existing contracts and agreements related to pruning branches and other safety measures remain active.

Contractors engaged under the civic body have continued their work, and gradually, full supervision will be handed over to the corporations.

Earlier, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) supervised waste collection, while zonal offices managed areas with persistent issues.

However, in a recent order, the BBMP directed Commissioners to take responsibility for waste collection as well. Under the new corporation system, this arrangement will continue, with both BSWML and the Commissioners of all five corporations accountable for ensuring proper waste collection and management. Chief Engineers of the corporations will monitor black spots.

Mr. Rao reiterated that the transition is progressing smoothly and that public convenience remains the priority. Citizens who are uncertain about the changes can contact the helpline for clarification.

Police constable arrested on rape charges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basaveshwaranagar police on Saturday arrested a police constable attached to the reserve police force on charges of rape and cheating a city-based advocate on the pretext of marriage.

Based on the complaint, the police arrested the accused identified as Sidde Gowda, who is serving in Mangaluru and remanded him into judicial custody.

The complaint

According to the complaint, the accused met her through a common friend at a marriage function at Bagalkot last year. The duo exchanged numbers and used to chat online before Sidde Gowda came to Bengaluru in October, 2024, and stayed in a lodge at Basaveshwaranagar.

He allegedly invited the victim to his room and had a physical relationship after proposing to marry her. In May this year, the victim claimed to have confronted him and asked about the marriage.

She alleged that an enraged Sidde Gowda abused her verbally, slapped and even threatened her with dire consequences. The accused refused to marry her saying she was from a lower caste and asked her to leave him alone, she alleged.

Commissioners lead cleaniness operations, encroachment clearance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) citywide cleanliness initiative, multiple municipal corporations on Saturday conducted mass cleaning drives and pedestrian pathway encroachment clearance operations.

Central Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan supervised operations in Shivajinagar and Sajjan Rao Circle in V.V. Puram.

On C.V. Raman Nagar's 80 ft. Road, the Empire Hotel, which had encroached on the footpath, was fined ₹10,000.

He directed officials to arrange mobile toilet facilities along pedestrian pathways in Majestic.

East Corporation Commissioner Ramesh D.S. oversaw desilting works along stormwater drains in Sarjapur. West City Corporation Commissioner Dr. K.V. Rajendra led encroachment clearance works in Kengeri. K. N. Ramesh, South City Corporation Commissioner, supervised encroachment clearance operations along Sarakki Main Road and J.P. Nagar 1st Phase.

At an introductory meeting in Yelahanka, North Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar stressed that officers must understand local issues and resolve them promptly.

Mr. Kumar further instructed all staff to focus on meeting revenue targets, bringing new properties under the tax net, and carrying out revisions where necessary.

Event today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sapthak Bangalore will present Sangeet Sambhrama on Sunday at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, Malleswaram.

The event will commence at 5.30 p.m. with a vocal concert by Sajan Mishra and Swaransh Mishra from Delhi, accompanied by Ravindra Yavagal on the tabla and Vyasmurthi Katti on the harmonium. Following this, the audience will be treated to a sitar recital by Nayan Ghosh with Ishaan Ghosh on the tabla, both from Mumbai.

SHRC begins inquiry against police for illegal detention of woman, three children

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The staff of Pulikeshi Nagar Police Station are in the dock for allegedly harassing a 49-year-old woman and her three children with special needs by detaining them at the station for several hours.

According to a writ petition filed by the woman in the High Court, she and her children were illegally detained for questioning to track down an accused in a kidnapping case, with whom she allegedly had a live-in relationship.

The victim has approached the court seeking legal action and also lodged a complaint with the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, which has taken cognisance and initiated an inquiry into the matter

Reportedly, the police had arrested a man, identified as Daniel Essex, in connection with an abduction case in August 2024. He was later released on bail, but he violated bail conditions and allegedly went missing, prompting the police to launch a manhunt to track him down.

As per the complaint to SHRC, police searched the complainant's house for the accused, as she was reportedly having a live-in relationship with him as of August 16.

She alleged that despite not being related to the case in any way, police barged into the house, detained her and her three children, aged 16, 14, and 12, who are specially-abled, for several hours, and even snatched their phones. She further, in her complaint, said that her 14-year-old girl, suffering from epilepsy, had her medical condition worsened because of "police high-handedness".

The complainant has demanded an FIR against the police officials for trespass and abduction.

Power disruption

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several localities under the 66/11 kV Banaswadi MUSS will experience disruption in power supply between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m on Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to a release from Bescom, the shutdown is being undertaken to facilitate the provision of new jumps from the main bus pertaining to the power transformer-3.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, SEP. 07		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:26
RISE	18:15	SET 05:32
MONDAY, SEP. 08		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:26
RISE	18:56	SET 06:26
TUESDAY, SEP. 09		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:25
RISE	19:39	SET 07:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	25
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mrs.A.Suvarnalatha W/o.K G Anandan, Aged about 66 years, residing at No.67, 18th cross, 6th main road, N S Palya, B.T.M 2nd stage, Bangalore -560076, has LOST THE ORIGINAL REGISTERED SALE DEED DATED 22.08.2012, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.10882/2012-13 OF BOOK-1, Total Pages No.12, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, HOSUR, TN, LOST AT NEAR B.T.M LAYOUT BUS STOP ON 10.06.2025, BETWEEN 10:00AM TO 05:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED ONLINE DATED 06.09.2025 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO. 1787353/2025, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact the below address.

If any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: #782/11, Ground Floor, 17th 'B' main Road 60th Cross, Near Lakshman Rao Skin Clinic, 5th Block, Bhasyam Circle, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line:** 080-48520073

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Telephone Numbers 080-25310099, 080-25310181 | E-mail – cb6298@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Ref. No.: ARMII/ATC/539/DN/2025/1 **Date : 04.09.2025**

To,

Borrower/s : 1. M/s. Azeez Trading Company, Proprietor : Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad, Flat No. 40/1, APMC Road, 3rd Main, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar, Karnataka - 563114. **2. Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad S/o. Mr. S.A.Azeez,** No. 3212, Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114. **Gurantors : 1. Mr. Syed Asifulla S/o. Mr. S.A. Azeez,** No. 3212, Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114. **2. Mrs. Shabeen Taj W/o. Mr.Syed Jalaluddin Amjad,** No. 3212, Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114.

Dear Sir,

Sub.: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of Canara Bank Specialised ARM II Branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/s Azeez Trading Company, Proprietor: Mr.Syed Jalaluddin Amjad,** Flat No.40/1, APMC Road, 3rd Main, Bnagarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar, Karnataka – 563114, (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower" **(1), Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad, S/o Mr. S.A. Azeez,** No.3212,Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114 (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower" **(2),** has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and have entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned agreements.

That **Mr. Syed Asifulla S/o. Mr. S.A. Azeez,** No.3212, Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114 (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor"1), **Mrs. Shabeen Taj,W/o Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad,** No. 3212, Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk,Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114 (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor"2), has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities (Fund based / Non Fund Based) up to the limit of **Rs. 3,22,87,592.72/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Two Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Two and Seventy Two Paisa Only) as on 03.09.2025** with interest thereon.

Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad, S/o Mr. S.A.Azeez, No.3212, Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114 and **Mrs. Shabeen Taj W/o Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad,** No.3212,Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka - 563114 are also entered into agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **December 2020** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on **Rs 3,22,87,592.72/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Two Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Two and Seventy Two Paisa Only) as on 03.09.2025 +** further Interest and charges thereon, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as **Non-Performing Asset (NPA) as on 29.03.2021** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor **within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice.** Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of mentioned in schedule C together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of **Rs. 3,22,87,592.72/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Two Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Two and Seventy Two Paisa Only) as on 03.09.2025,** together with further interest (as stated in schedule C) and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue :

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of **Section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor.**

It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,
for Canara Bank
Authorised Officer

SCHEDULE – A
[Details of the Credit Facility/ies availed by the Borrowers]

Sl. No.	Loan No	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of Sanction
1.	0485285005210	OCC-CANARA VYAAPAR	23.09.2010
2.	0485710000005	CFITL	01.09.2020

SCHEDULE – B

Sl. No.	Nature	Name of Title Holder
1.	**Property No. 1 :-** Residential house RCC Roofed building bearing Khatha No.862/1, 3630/1, 3215 Situated at Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, Bangarpet Town, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District. Measuring : East to West 48 feet and North to South 23 feet bounded on : **East by :** Sheshachalam Modaliar Road, **West by :** Aslam Farooq property, **North by :** Syed Asifulla and Rahimunnisa property, **South by :** Damodar Naidu property.	**Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad**
2.	**Property No. 2 :-** All that piece and parcel of the vacant site bearing Muncipal Khatha No. 767/767/540, New PID No.024-W0574-13, (Old BDA site No. 540 including margin land), Situated at 1st Stage, 3rd Block, Hennur-Bellary Road Layout, Bangalore, Measuring : East to West 40-0 feet and North to South 37-0 feet in all measuring 1480 Square feet and bounded on : **East by :** Site bearing No. 545, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Site bearing No. 539.	**Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Amjad and Mrs. Shabeen Taj**

SCHEDULE – C
[Details of liability as on date 03.09.2025]

Sl. No.	Loan No	Principal as on date 03.09.2025	Interest and other charges as on date 03.09.2025	Total Liability as on date 03.09.2025
1.	0485285005210	13,172,644.04	1,77,26,823.72	3,08,99,467.76
2.	0485710000005	767,654.00	6,20,470.96	13,88,124.96
	Total	1,39,40,298.04	1,83,47,294.68	3,22,87,592.72

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E-mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/05/2025-26/154 Date: 06.09.2025

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KSPH & IDCL invites **ONLINE** tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the below works.

Name of Works: Construction of PSI and PC Quarters under Police Gruha-2025 Phase-5 at various Locations in Karnataka.

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Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPPP.

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DIPR/CP/2684/SPAN/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ದೂ: 08227–261232
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_tnarasipura@yahoo.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.tmarasipuratown.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸ/ತಿನಪುರ/ಪಅ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/SBM-2/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.09.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್–2ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಸ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿರುವ ಲೆಗೆಸ್ಸಿ ವೇಸ್ಟ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ RDF transporation ಗಾಗಿ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ 2000ರ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರರು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.inನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜ್‌ನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ**
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದೆ ಸೂಚಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/SE6128	73.66	124850.00
2	DMA/2025-26/SE6125	10.09	25225.00

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು	**ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು**	**ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು**	**ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ**
ಪುರಸಭೆ	ಪುರಸಭೆ	ಪುರಸಭೆ	ಪುರಸಭೆ
ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ	ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ	ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ	ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ

DIPR/MYS/918/SA/2025-26

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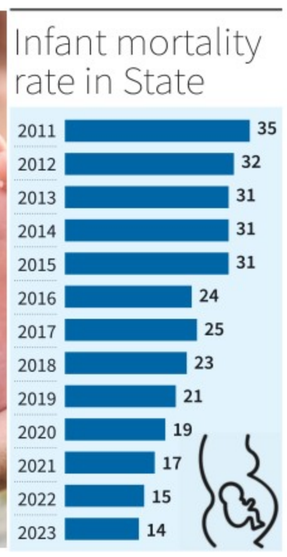
M BG-BGE

State's infant mortality rate falls by one point

A matter of concern is that rural areas continue to report a higher number of infant deaths compared to urban regions. Also, the death rate is high among female babies

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU



Highlighting improved health indicators in Karnataka, the State's infant mortality rate (IMR) fell from 15 in 2022 to 14 in 2023, according to the Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 2023, released this week by the office of the Registrar-General of India.

IMR is defined as infant (less than one year) deaths per thousand live births in a given time period and for a given region.

Karnataka's IMR has seen a reduction of 21 points since 2011. From 35 in 2011, the State successfully reduced the IMR to 24 in 2016. Although this vital parameter again went up and touched 25 in 2017, it has fallen by two points every year since then, touching 19 in 2020 and 14 in 2023.

However, a matter of concern is that rural areas continue to report a higher number of infant deaths compared to urban areas. Also, the death rate is high in female babies. While 16 female infant deaths per thousand live births were reported in rural areas in Karnataka in 2023, the rate is 14 in urban regions.

Karnataka's IMR is far better than the national average that dropped to 25 in 2023 from 26 in 2022. In the last 10 years, the national IMR has witnessed a decline of about 37.5% from 40 to 25 in the last decade. The corresponding decline in rural areas is 44 to 28, and for urban areas it is from 27 to 18, thereby exhibiting about 36% and 33% decadal decline, respectively.

Despite the decline in IMR over the last decades, one in every 40 infants die within the first year of their life at the national level (irrespective of rural-urban), stated the SRS bulletin.

Basavaraj B. Dhabadi, State Deputy Director (Child Health), said: "We have noted that substantially improving the community and facility based services has helped a lot. Besides, we are regularly conducting death audits and the causes are being addressed," the official said.

He said infectious diseases, including pneumonia, diarrhoea, and hypothermia, have come down drastically owing to general hygiene measures, awareness, and education of mothers by ASHAs.

However, preterm birth complications, birth asphyxia, and low birth weight apart from congenital anomalies are challenges that need to be addressed continuously, Dr. Dabadi added.

Questions raised over logic of using ballot papers for local body elections

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's decision to reintroduce ballot papers in the upcoming local body elections has drawn criticism from current and former government officers who have served in the Chief Electoral Officer's Office and the State Election Commission.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a few senior officers questioned the logic of using ballot papers. One of them said: "Local elections are often the most hotly contested, and on the political front it opens the door for manipulation, and paper ballots make malpractice easier."

Costs of reverting

Besides taking a long time to count votes, they said the use of ballot papers would increase the financial and environmental costs manifold.

Some retired IAS officers, who served as the CEO and State Election Commissioner, argued that reverting to ballot papers is like "taking democracy back 30 years."

A file photo of election officers segregating ballot papers.

Operationally "it's a nightmare as there are crores of ballots to print, store, guard, and count. Mistakes are inevitable," said one of them.

A senior current officer said: "If the real issue is erosion of trust, the solution is not to abandon EVMs but to enhance trust-building mechanisms by greater use of voter verifiable audit trail (VVPAT), public demonstrations of machines, involving political parties in randomisation, strong-room checks, and using technology to livestream counting and secure data."

Further, he said that ballot papers would not solve mistrust, but "simply replace one set of suspicions with another, and reintroduce old problems we worked very hard to eliminate."

Former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla, in his book *Every Vote Counts: The Story of India's Elections*, defends the use of EVMs and says: "When some political parties or candidates have lost elections, they have been quick to blame the EVMs. Yet, when they win where the same machines are used, they celebrate their victories, with gusto."

Mr. Chawla says: "The EVMs would save an estimated two lakh trees from being cut, to produce over 10,000 tonnes of paper required for the general elections. With Assembly polls added, millions of trees would be saved over time."

'Use of EVMs difficult in GP polls'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A retired State Election Commissioner said it would be difficult to use EVMs in Gram Panchayat (GP) polls, since there are multi-member wards/constituencies in GPs. For instance, some GP wards in Kalaburagi district were represented not by one member but five to six. The State had been using ballot papers in GP polls. However, EVMs will be used in conducting polls to ZP/TP and city corporations, which are conducted on party lines, the retired official said.

Compensation package for UKP third phase will be finalised within next week, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday announced that the compensation package for the third phase of the Upper Krishna Project would be finalised after convening a meeting within the next week and appealed to farmers not to approach the court as it would lead to delay.

He was speaking to presspersons after performing 'Ganga puja' and offering 'bagina' to the Krishna at Lal Bahadur Shastri reservoir (Almatti dam) in Vijayapura district in a programme organised by the Water Resources Department and Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited (KBJNL) on Saturday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar offering 'bagina' to the Krishna in Vijayapura district on Saturday. ANI

"Previously a meeting with farmers' leaders was held in Belagavi and the government had agreed to their suggestions. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has discussed the issue with farmers and legislators of the region. It has now reached the stage of giving consent award. With the consent of everyone it will be finalised within next week," he said.

Mr. Siddramaiah said under the third phase of Upper Krishna Project, the height of the Almattidam will be increased from 519.6 m to 524.25 m to store 130 tmcft of water.

"As much as 173 tmcft of water can be utilised to irrigate 6.6 lakh hectares. While the third phase has been finalised, the gazette notification has not been issued yet. If it is issued, then it will be easy to take up works on increasing the dam height and other irrigation works," he said.

Asserting the State government's commitment to increasing the height of the Almatti dam, Mr. Shivakumar said that leaders and legislators should agree for a single-phase land acquisition without any appeal to facilitate early completion of the whole process. "A separate decision will be taken on the rehabilitation. It is our commitment to utilise the water going to the sea for creating irrigation facilities for our people. We want to take it up during this term itself," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said that Yashwanthrayagouda Patil, MLA, has said that there was no specific demand for certain amount of compensation from the farmers as the canal would pass through their farmlands.

"He has requested for fixing compensation with a liberal mind. Ministers Shivanand Patil and M.B. Patil too have given their suggestions," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar expressed confidence that considering the pressure, the Centre might issue notification on the issue any time. "People of Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Vijayapura, and Bagalkot districts should extend necessary cooperation. We have discussed with legislators of all parties and collected their opinions," he said.

Bommai criticises govt. for its handling of internal quota issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Minister and MP, has alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had implemented internal reservation for political gain, violating a Supreme Court order and ignoring the H.N. Nagamohan Das report.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, he said the BJP will fight to secure justice for communities deprived of reservation.

"On December 1, 2024, the Supreme Court ruled that States had the authority to provide internal reservation. The court also said accurate data must be available, backwardness must be identified, and weaker communities should not be grouped with dominant ones," said Mr. Bommai.

"This government, only to safeguard its vote bank, ignored that and committed social injustice by not following the Supreme Court's order," he said.

It had made internal reservation "an unresolved knot", said Mr. Bommai.

Gorur award to Hampana

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A commemoration and award ceremony celebrated the literary legacy of Kannada writer Gorur Ramaswamy Iyengar at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday.

The event, jointly organised by Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi, Dr. Goruru Sahitya Prathistana, Rashtriya Seva Yojane, and the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, brought together literary figures, family members, and admirers of Iyengar's work.

Wooday P. Krishna, president of Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi, presided over the ceremony.

N. Sathyaprakash, educationist, proposed renaming the Rajajinagar metro station after Iyengar, aiming to embed his legacy in the city's cultural fabric.

During the event, the Gorur award was presented to scholar Ham. Pa. Nagarajaiah. A posthumous award to poet H.S. Venkateshmurthy was accepted by his son.

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Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication, to the undersigned,

Devika Kumari.A., Advocate.,
No.1115, Ground Floor, 26th 'B' Main,
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Bangalore- 560 069 Mob:9480620781.

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Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication, to the undersigned,

Devika Kumari.A., Advocate.,
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41st Cross, 9th Block Jayanagar,
Bangalore- 560 069. Mob: 9480620781

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA- DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/O THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PRACHI DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR-12
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"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- SEPRD-11/2025-26

Bid Documents consisting of work, estimate cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** complete online process only

1.	Nature of Work	Civil works (Canal /V.R Bridge / River embankment)
2.	No. of Works	31 (Thirty One) Nos.
3.	Bid Identification No.	SEPRD-11/2025-26
4.	Estimated Cost (in Rupees)	Rs.6.00 Lakhs to Rs.43.00 Lakhs
5.	Earnest Money Deposit	Referred to DTCN
6.	Cost of Tender Paper	Referred to DTCN
7.	Period of Completion	Referred to DTCN
8.	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	From 08.09.2025 (10.00 AM) to 17.09.2025 (5.30 PM)
9.	Date and Time of Opening of Tender Documents & online bids	18.09.2025 at 10.30 AM
10.	Date of Lottery (In case of situation arises)	25.09.2025 at 11.30 AM
11.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Prachi Division, Bhubaneswar-12, E-mail: prachi.division@yahoo.co.in, eeprachidivision@gmail.com

Further details (corrigendum, addendum, cancellation) can be seen from the State Govt. Portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

A-580: **Superintending Engineer, Prachi Division, Bhubaneswar.**
OIPR-32096/11/0011/2526

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC-2/WS/Balaji OHT/HSPT/2025-26/658 Date :06-09-2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER – 2nd CALL:-

1) Detail of Work: "Construction of 10.00 Lakh Litre capacity Shaft Type Over Head Tank on 15mtr staging @ Sy No. 134/B/3A Park Premises Balaji Nagar (Patel High School) in Hosapete city under Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Grants. (LUMPSUM) (No Variation) **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS /WORK_INDENT363/CALL-2)**, 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 204.22 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount : Rs. 3,06,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 12 Months (Including Monsoon), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **08-09-2025 after 17:10 Hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **22-09-2025 at 11:30 Hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **08-10-2025 up to 17:15 Hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **10-10-2025 after 11:05 Hours**, 10) Addl. information:Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/479/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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Mumbai police uncover drug-making unit near Hyderabad, nab 12

Illegal lab: The mephedrone manufacturing unit in Cherlapally near Hyderabad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Mumbai police uncovered a mephedrone manufacturing unit in Cherlapalli in Telangana on Friday, a month after the arrest of a Bangladesh national with the synthetic drug.

Sources in the Mumbai police said the search was conducted at Vagdevi Laboratories Pvt Ltd. at Navodaya Colony near Hyderabad.

"We have arrested the owner and a chemical analyst from the firm," said an officer of the Crime Investigation Branch involved in the probe.

"Inside, we found nearly 5.8 kg of mephedrone, 35,500 litres of chemicals, 950 kg of other materials used in the production of the synthetic drug," said the officer. The value of the seized mephedrone is reportedly ₹9 crore.

The operation led to the arrest of 12 accused linked to the racket. The police also seized 27 mobile phones, four vehicles, electronic weighing machines and equipment used in the drug's manufacture.

The Mumbai police got wind of the drug racket on August 8, when it apprehended the 23-year-old Bangladesh national Fatima Murad Shaikh, alias Molla, with 178 grams of mephedrone and ₹23.97 lakh in cash and other valuables.

Massive scale

During interrogation, Ms. Shaikh revealed that the drug was being sourced from Telangana.

A team of 15 officers, including three senior officials, arrived in Hyderabad to investigate her leads.

The officer said the factory was operating on a massive scale with the potential to flood the market with large volumes of the narcotic.

Senior officers, including the Additional Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), supervised the investigation, while Inspector Pramod Badakh and his team led the raids on the ground.

Karnataka caste census: Clamour over how sub-castes are classified

However, the commission for backward classes has declined to entertain a demand to club all sub-castes together ahead of the enumeration for the socio-educational survey

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Amid a clamour by caste groups to club all sub-castes together ahead of the socio-educational survey, which will be taken up from September 22, the the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes has declined to entertain their demand, citing legal hurdles.

The commission, a fortnight ago, published a list of 1,400 castes/sub-castes alphabetically calling for suggestions and objections. The sub-castes of Vokkaligas, Veerashaiva Lingayats, Brahmins, Kurubas, Christians, and Muslims, among others, are scattered across the list that follows the alphabetical order. The commission is likely to have a list of about 1,800 castes/sub-castes when the survey commences.

Last enumeration

"We saw during the last enumeration that scattering of sub-castes created problems for enumerators as well as led to confusion that reduced the number. In some cases, similar sounding caste names or the first names could result in wrong entries. We are opposed to this alphabetical order list and we have urged the commission to club all sub-castes under the main castes. We have provided a list of 87 sub-castes of Veerashaiva-Lingayats that can be brought together," Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha secretary H.M. Renuka Prasanna told *The Hindu*.

The Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha has also told the commission that all Brahmin sub-castes should be brought together instead of being scattered. It has listed 64 Brahmin sub-sects that should be incorporated in the final list. The Vokkaliga Sangha has also made a similar demand.

The difficulties

However, commission member-secretary K.A. Dayanand argued: "It is not possible to keep all castes/sub-castes together. Only notified castes can be kept together and in Karnataka 814 castes/sub-castes have been notified. Along with this, there are about 1,000 unnotified castes. However, after the survey, we will discuss castes that can be grouped together."

The sticker that will be pasted on residences as part of the socio-educatonal survey. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Confusion in the past

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Some of the castes that find a mention in the list created problems during the previous classification.

For example, according to K.N. Lingappa, a member of the H. Kantharaj Commission, the caste list had only Sunnagara. However, it was found that Sunnagaras are a sub-caste under both the Uppara and the Bestha castes. "People did not have a choice to identify which Sunnagara they were."

Similarly, issues were faced in enumerating Katic, a sub caste both among Hindus and Muslims, that finds a mention in Category 1 and Category 2A, and Phoolmali, a caste representing flower vendors, found both among Hindus and Muslims as well as in Category 1 and 2 A.

In the first socio-educational survey in 2015 by the H. Kantharaj Commission, demands had come from the caste groups to keep all sub-castes together which, however, was not entertained.

"It was among the reasons the caste groups used to call the survey unscientific, though it was robust with over 95% of the population covered," said K.N. Lingappa, member of the H. Kantharaj Commission. "We encountered challenges in 2015 where alphabetical order was followed because it was our first experience. Based on that experience, it could have been changed this time to bring castes/sub-castes together to prevent anyone attempting to malign the exercise."

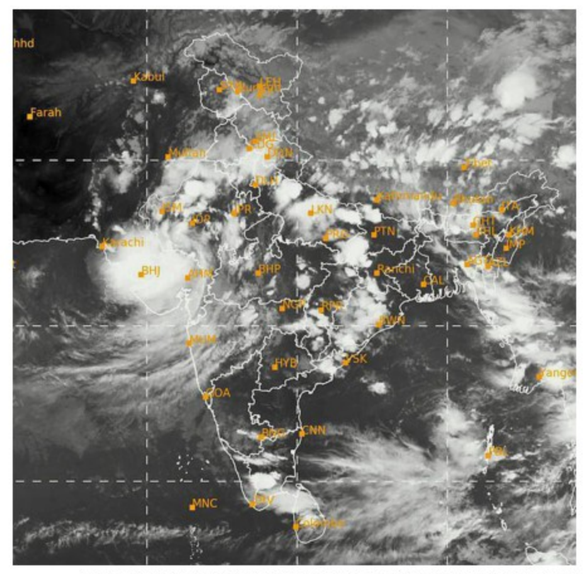
Mobile-friendly

However, commission chairperson Madhusudan R. Naik said the alphabetical order will be maintained since it is easier to scroll on the mobile.

"There is a misconception that population of the community may not be captured fully. This is not true. We are not trying to show any community's numbers as less or more. These are self declaration of individuals based on which data is captured."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	35.2	27.7	Kozhikode	0.1	33.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	0.2	27.8	25.3	Kurnool	—	33.0	24.2
Aizawl	9	32.4	24.5	Lucknow	1	34.9	27.4
Allahabad	—	35.5	26.4	Madurai	—	38.6	27.1
Bengaluru	1.4	27.7	20.4	Mangaluru	—	29.0	23.6
Bhopal	5	28.4	23.6	Mumbai	34	27.3	24.2
Bhubaneswar	3.4	33.5	25.5	Mysuru	10	29.8	19.8
Chandigarh	0.4	34.8	25.9	New Delhi	0.1	34.1	25.0
Chennai	—	35.6	26.9	Patna	—	36.5	29.4
Coimbatore	—	33.6	23.4	Port Blair	—	30.2	25.3
Dehradun	53	32.0	22.8	Puducherry	—	36.0	25.9
Gangtok	75	22.0	17.6	Pune	1.6	30.0	23.5
Goa	2	31.2	24.8	Raipur	—	34.5	24.7
Guwahati	—	35.6	26.4	Ranchi	—	32.8	22.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	21.0	Shillong	8.6	24.0	17.0
Hyderabad	—	31.2	22.7	Shimla	—	23.4	20.2
Imphal	—	30.4	25.4	Srinagar	—	30.9	15.6
Jaipur	24	31.2	24.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.8	24.2
Kochi	4	30.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	38.3	26.4
Kohima	—	25.6	19.4	Vijayawada	—	36.2	26.4
Kolkata	—	35.4	27.6	Visakhapatnam	12	32.0	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	13	36	63	32	49	
Bengaluru	9	48	60	—	90	
Chennai	8	15	50	46	58	
Delhi	6	32	18	117	135	
Hyderabad	16	18	17	81	85	
Kolkata	4	184	16	72	74	
Lucknow	10	11	37	51	53	
Mumbai	23	12	16	61	64	
Pune	—	34	58	37	62	
Visakhapatnam	12	50	21	69	115	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 209 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Jalgaon, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Sri.SRINIVASA RAO TAMMINA,** Aged about 62 years, S/o.T.Subba Rao Tammina, residing at No.1-11-72/34, Near Daddy Colon, Kakatiya Colony, Raichur-584 101, has Lost Original Sale Deed dated 07.07.1997, vide Document No.BNG(U)-BLR(S)2697/1997-98, Book-I, C.D.No.21/1997-98, registered on 11.07.1997, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Property situated at Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,

Any Finders Please contact Devika Kumari.A., Advocate., No.1115, Ground Floor, 26th 'B' Main, 41st Cross, 9th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069, Contact 9480620781

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients, **(1).Sri.YEEDALA VIJAYA KUMAR,** Aged about 56 years, S/o.Sri.Y.V.V.Satyanarayana, residing at No.1-4-326, I.B Road, I.B.Colony, Ramalingeshwar Layout, Raichur-584 101, **(2).Sri.TAMMINA SUMANTH,** Aged about 36 Years, S/o.Tammina Krishna, Residing at No.1-11-72/33, Lingasugur Road, K E B Colony, Kakatiya Colony, Raichur-584 101, have Lost Original of registered Sale Deed dated 08.08.2006, registered as document No.BAS-1-12045/2006-07, C.D.No.BASD262, in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk and Sale Deed dated 25.10.2010, registered as document No.BGR-1-03847/2010-11, Book-I, C.D.No.BGRD54, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Begur, Property situated at Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,

Any Finders Please contact Devika Kumari.A., Advocate., No.1115, Ground Floor, 26th 'B' Main, 41st Cross, 9th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069, Contact 9480620781

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023 Phone: 080-29557023 e-mail: cekhsdrp@gmail.com
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1/AE-3/HWC & BPHU Hassan Sub Div/TND/2025-26/1887 Date: 04.09.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Health and Wellness Centers at 1) Kataradahali in Chikkamagaluru Taluk, 2) Bhaktharahalli in Chikkamagaluru Taluk, 3) Pillenahalli in Kadur Taluk, 4) Haadikere in Tarikere Taluk, 5) Bappunji in Koppa Taluk, 6) Hodiyala in N.R pura Taluk, 7) Kunnalu in Chikkamagaluru District (Call-4).	380.00	5.70	6 Months
2	Construction of Block Level Public Health Unit at GH Tarikere, GH Kadur in Chikkamagaluru District and GH Sakaleshpura, GH Alur in Hassan District (Call-2).	200.00	3.00	6 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders **20.09.2025** up to **16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **22.09.2025** at **16.30 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Hence forth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telephone : 080-22024000
e-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com, cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in
No. KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/15 DATE : 06.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION ON TURNKEY BASIS -CALL - 3
(Through KPP Portal)

1.Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) proposes to take up the following bridge on Turnkey Basis based on Tenderer's own Design on two cover sysmtem. The details of proposed Bridge work to be taken up for implementation are as below.
Name of the Project : Construction of High-level Minor Bridge across Krishna River Tributary near Shilahalli Village, Lingasuguru Taluk of Raichur District.
Approx cost of work (Excl.GST) : Rs. 9.58 Crore, **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :** Rs. 9.58 Lakh (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal & Rs. 8.58 lakh in the Form of Bank Guarantee), **Period of completion (incl. monsoon):** 24 Months
2. Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal document from Government of Karnataka Pubic Procurement Portal (KPPP) **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also submit the bids online on the same portal.
3. Bid Security (EMD) shall be paid as mentioned in the document
(a) Pre-bid meeting will be held on 12.09.2025 at 15.30 hrs. IST at KRDCL Head Office, Bengaluru. **(b)** Last date for submission of Bids through KPP Portal is on 20.09.2025 up to 17.30 Hrs. IST. **(c)** The date and time of opening of Technical Bids is 22.09.2025 at 11:30 hrs. IST
*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and furhter changes will be updated only on KPP Portal/KRDCL website **www.krdcl.in**

SD/- CHIEF ENGINEER KRDCL, BENGALURU
DIPR/CP/YC/2669/2025-26

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagara Special Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South District.
Short Term Tender Notification No. 04/2025-26 Date : 04-09-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System** from the eligible Contractors for **01 Work from Rs. 200.00 Lakhs** through E-procurement Portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible Contractors can participate in this tender through E-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1) Documents may be Downloaded from 08-09-2025 to 22-09-2025, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender 22-09-2025 upto 16.00 hours. 3) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 18-09-2025 at 11.30 hours, 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 23-09-2025 (If possible) at 16.30 hours.

Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Special Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South District.
DIPR/Ramanagar/323/Manipal/2025-26

ADVERTISEMENT FOR VACANCY OF THL3 POST OF HEADMISTRESS
VACANCY OF HEADMISTRESS AT DOMLUR PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL, ASC CENTRE (NORTH), BANGALORE.
(a) 01 x HEADMISTRESS. MINIMUM FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ON CONTRACT BASIS.
(b) **QUALIFICATION :** GRADUATE / POST GRADUATE. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CANDIDATES HAVING B.ED / NTT DEGREE.
APPLICATION ALONG WITH BIO DATA BE SUBMITTED BY **15 SEP 2025.** CONTACT NO & RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS MUST BE MENTIONED IN THE APPLICATION.
INTERVIEW OF SHORT LISTED CANDIDATES BE CONDUCTED IN 22 SEP 2025.
CONTACT DETAILS :-
(a) OIC SCHOOL - 08329265868 (b) SCHOOL STAFF - 9975202636

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Centre, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No.17/2025
Rc.No. MAU61-OPCS0CNTE(APPT)/14/2025-HR, dt.04-09-2025.
Notification is hereby issued for filling up certain posts in the Program Monitoring Unit (PMU) in APCRDA, Vijayawada on contract basis. Online application is available in the APCRDA website in careers tab and can be submitted from **dt. 07.09.2025 to dt. 19.09.2025.** For further details, please visit **https://crda.ap.gov.in**

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 76/ MAU61-EE0ENV(OTH)/2/2020-CZLE, Dt:04/09/2025
Name of Work: APCRDA- **"Expression of Interest (EoI)** from Technical Service Providers, Firms & Consultants for Environment Clearance for Greenfield Capital City, Amaravati Andhra Pradesh".
The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **08.09.2025** to **23.09.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **23.09.2025** up to **15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **23.09.2025 @ 16.00 Hrs**. For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in**
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105
IFT No KMF/ENGG/ NMP-MAP Machine/02145/2025-26 Date: 06-09-2025

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd CALL)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible Contractors / Firms through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Manufacturer/firms who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of contract
1	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Automatic Tray sealing with modified atmosphere packing technology machine and gas flushing attachment on turn-key basis for Nandini Milk Product Plant at Bengaluru.	1 Job	50,000/-	07 Days

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated: 08-09-2025 to 15-09-2025 upto 11:00 AM.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 15-09-2025 up to 11:00 AM
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 16-09-2025 up to 11:30 AM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP Portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Following e-tenders are published in Karnataka Govt, e-portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under "GOODS" category on 23.08.2025 & 29.08.2025 as per RTPS requirements.
1) No. KPCL/2025-26/IND1630/CALL-2: Procurement of Hydrogen gas leakage detector. **EMD: Rs. 5,400/-. 2) KPCL/2025-26/1759/CALL-2**: Procurement of Gaskets, O-Rings & Trunion bushings for maintenance of U# 5 to 8 mills of RTPS. **EMD: Rs. 31,000/-. 3) No. KPCL/2025-26/1972**: Procurement of temperature transmitters for Unit-4. **EMD: Rs. 10,900/-. 4) No. KPCL/2025-26/1979**: Procurement of flap valve assembly & flap gate assembly for MRHS of Unit 5 to 7 of RTPS. **EMD: Rs. 26,300/-. 5) No. KPCL/2025-26/1980**: Procurement of Sealing Compound 30-45 for units 5 to 8 of RTPS. **EMD: Rs. 3,400/-. 6) No. KPCL/2025-26/1981**: Procurement of XRP-903 bowl mills spares for unit 8 of RTPS. **EMD: Rs. 36,900/-. 7) No. KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3397 Dtd: 28.08.2025**: "Providing Pathway concrete in between Railway Tracks in Marshalling yard at RTPS". **Amount put to Tender: Rs. 16.95 lakhs.** Work Completion Period: 3 Months(Including Monsoon) **8) No. KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 3410 Dtd: 29.08.2025**: "Reconstruction of damaged RCC Retaining wall along the conveyor-16/Stacker-1 towards Raichur side in CHP area at RTPS (From CH: 400.00M to CH: 660.00M)". **Amount put to Tender: Rs. 33.37 lakhs.** Work Completion Period: 6 Months(Including Monsoon)
Last date & Time for receipt of tenders (For Sl. No. 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6)**: 15.09.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.** (For Sl. No. 4) **12.09.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.**
Further details can be had (For Sl No. 1 to 6) from **Executive Engineer (Purchase),** Mobile: 9449597966 e-Mail id: eeprtps@gmail.com & (For Sl No. 7 & 8) **Executive Engineer (RTM)** Mobile: 9480682533. RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. during office hours.

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: ed@bannerughattabiopark.org
No: A3/BBP/FD/E-bidding-03/2025-26 Date: 03-09-2025

NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru, a unit of the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invites e-Bid for competitive Rate of Interest for placing surplus funds of Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru from Nationalized Banks in Fixed Deposits (Non-Callable), whose Branch is in Bengaluru Limits only.
Detailed E-Bid documents may be downloaded from GOK Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date and Time for Submitted of Queries on **10-09-2025 upto 3.00 PM.** Date and Time to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction on **11-09-2025 upto 3.00 PM.** Evaluation: **15-09-2025 from 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** Live Bidding: **Commences at 10.30 AM and Concludes at 1.00 PM on 18-09-2025.**

Sd/- Executive Director
DIPR/CP/2673/Adverto/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT
O/o Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.
No.EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/06/2025-26 Date: 06.09.2025

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notice

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public procurement portal for the works approved Under Various Head of grants for the year 2025-26 Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **22.09.2025 up to 4.00 pm.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/2678/2025-26

From Page One

Modi welcomes Trump's remarks on 'special' ties

"I've been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil from Russia, and I let them know that we put a very big tariff on India, 50% tariff, very high tariff." When asked whether he was ready to reset ties with India, Mr. Trump said he would "always be friends with [Mr.] Modi" and called him a "great Prime Minister".

"I just don't like what he's doing at this particular moment, but India and the United States have a special relationship," he said, referring to India's imports of Russian oil, and added, "There's nothing to worry about... we just have moments [of disagreements] on occasion."

"I deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties," Mr. Modi said on X, adding that "India and the U.S. have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership."

When asked about the comments, Mr. Jaishankar said that Prime Minister Modi and President Trump have a "good personal equation" and that Mr. Modi attaches "enormous importance" to the relationship. "The point is that we remain engaged with the U.S., and at this time, I can't say more than that," he added.

The next steps by both Delhi and Washington will be watched closely for signs of a truce after a team of U.S. negotiators due to visit Delhi in August-end called off the visit.

All eyes on Jaishankar

In particular, all eyes will be on whether Mr. Jaishankar and his counterparts can agree on a date for the Quad Summit due to be held in India this year, which Mr. Trump is expected to attend.

On Friday, Mr. Trump signed an executive order offering to zero out tariffs on a number of goods for countries that the U.S. has already signed trade agreements with, and outlooked concessions for future trade agreements, without specifically mentioning India.

Mr. Trump has praised India and Mr. Modi in the past few months on a number of occasions, while also criticising India for high tariffs, Russian oil imports, and claiming credit for mediating the ceasefire with Pakistan in May.

However, this is the first time Mr. Modi has responded publicly, indicating the possibility of a thaw or at least a pause in hostilities in the ties. In the past week, tensions have grown over comments by Trump administration officials, including trade advisor Peter Navarro – who called Mr. Modi's meeting with Russian and Chinese leaders a "shame", and called the Ukraine conflict "Modi's war" – and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who said India would "have to say sorry" and compromise in order to return to the table for talks.

'Two Khalistani groups funded from Canada'

Several terrorist entities listed under the Criminal Code in Canada that fall under the PMVE category, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Khalistani violent extremist groups Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation, have been observed by law enforcement and intelligence agencies to receive financial support originating from Canada, the report pointed out.

In 2022, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada's (FINTRAC) Operational Alert on Terrorist Activity Financing had identified Hezbollah as the second most frequently identified international terrorist entity to receive outgoing Canadian funds.

The 2025 Assessment report detailed the PMVE financing methods too and said Hamas and Hezbollah are established and well-resourced groups that fall under the PMVE category.

Diverse funding methods

"These groups use diverse funding methods to sustain their operations, including the abuse of the money services businesses (MSB) and banking sectors; use of cryptocurrencies; state financing; abuse of the charitable and non-profit organisations (NPO) sector; and criminal activity.

"Khalistani extremist groups supporting violent means to establish an independent state within Punjab, India, are suspected of raising funds in a number of countries, including Canada. These groups previously had an extensive fundraising network in Canada but now appear to consist of smaller pockets of individuals with allegiance to the cause but seemingly no particular affiliation to a specific group," the report revealed.

"The misuse of the charitable and NPO sectors has been observed as a prominent financing method used by Hamas and Hezbollah. Khalistani violent extremist groups have also been known to use networks to solicit donations from diaspora communities to raise and move funds, including through NPOs," it pointed out. It is estimated that revenue generation through NPO abuse represents a relatively small percentage of operational budgets of terrorist groups overall, it clarified.

Illegal drug trafficking remains the highest money laundering threat in Canada, followed by fraud, commercial trade fraud and trade-based money laundering, and tax crimes, the report said. "These threats are each estimated to involve billions of dollars in illicit proceeds annually in Canada," it added.

The latest report comes two months after the Canadian Security Intelligence Service's report for 2024, released on June 18, said ongoing involvement in violent activities by Canada-based Khalistani extremists continues to pose a national security threat to Canada and Canadian interests.

PM skips UN trip; Jaishankar to address General Assembly

Modi was scheduled to speak on September 26; Trump will address world leaders on Sept. 23; theme for session is 'Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development, human rights'

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) later this month, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued in United Nations.

The 80th session of the U.N. General Assembly will open on September 9. The General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump will address world leaders on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House.

According to a revised provisional list of speakers released on Friday, India will be represented by a 'Minister'. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will address the session on September 27.

Global stage: Narendra Modi addresses the Summit of the Future at the 79th UNGA session in New York in September 2024. ANI

According to a previous list issued in July, Mr. Modi was scheduled to address on September 26. The heads of government of Israel, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh were scheduled to address the UNGA General Debate on the same date.

Mr. Modi had travelled to the U.S. in February for a bilateral meeting with Mr. Trump at the White House. Mr. Trump has imposed tariffs totalling 50% on India, including 25% for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

The UNGA list of speakers for the General Debate is provisional and there is always possibility of changes in schedules and speakers. The list will continue to be updated accordingly.

The session this year comes amid the continued Israel-Hamas war as well as the Ukraine conflict. The theme for the 80th session is 'Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights'.

The session will open with a meeting to 'Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations' on September 22.

Modi-Macron talks

Prime Minister Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday held a phone conversation in which Mr. Modi reiterated New Delhi's support for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict even as the two leaders "positively" assessed initiatives to boost India-France ties.

In a social media post, the French president said "India and France share the same determination to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine."

"Had a very good conversation with President Macron. Exchanged views on efforts to bring an early end to the Ukraine conflict. The India-France strategic partnership will continue to play a key role in fostering global peace and stability," Mr. Modi said on X.

'No deal with U.S. on farm imports at the cost of farmers'

Press Trust of India
BHOPAL

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said no agreement would be inked with the United States regarding farm produce imports at the cost of Indian farmers.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after U.S. President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50%, including 25% additional duties, for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

"The Prime Minister has said no pact will take place at the cost of farmers. Their interest will be protected," Mr. Chouhan said at a news conference here.

He was responding to the question of whether there was any room to strengthen India-U.S. relations by compromising a little on the import duty on U.S. farm produce.

To a question about the Opposition's charge that Mr. Trump's tariff shock led to the changes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure, the Minister said, "They see Trump behind every good work that happens in Bharat....Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown it to the world that the interest of the country is paramount for him, and there will be no compromise on it."

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

"The interests of our farmers, poultry farmers, fishermen and the poor will be protected," the Union Minister further said, adding that India takes its own decisions.

On August 25, Mr. Chouhan had stated at a function here that the government resisted demands to allow the import of U.S. agricultural produce in the interest of Indian farmers.

GST: BJP to pull out all the stops nationwide to spread public awareness of latest reforms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), through its senior leaders and workers, will organise events at the State, district, and block levels across the country to inform all sections of society about the major rationalisation of Goods & Services Tax (GST) rates and its positive outcomes.

At a press conference, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the party has been receiving positive feedback from various quarters on the substantially reduced GST rates, which will make a wide range of goods linked to "food, clothing, and shelter" cheaper from September 22.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to middle class families has been reflected in the government's decisions, including the recent income tax exemption, Mr. Vaishnaw said. "Similarly, by making a big reform in GST, the Prime Minister has given a major relief to middle class families," he said.

"Before 2014, there was such a web of taxes resulting in a huge burden on the common man. GST has brought many benefits. Over the past six or seven years, it has been simplified and now stabilised," Mr. Vaishnaw said, adding that the reform would lead to an increase in demand across all sectors, also leading to growth in manufacturing and, therefore, jobs.

'Swadeshi' India

"Now is the time in which self-reliant India is being built, in which the respect for 'swadeshi' is increasing. People are adopting 'swadeshi' with great enthusiasm and pride. Almost all the associations, whether it is white goods, FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods), insurance, industry, electronics industry, have said very clearly that the benefits of GST will be passed on directly to the masses. The Finance Minister will keep a close watch," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

He also spoke about the measures being taken to expand the base of the manufacturing sector. "We need to look at three levels. The first is the design level, the second is that of finished product, and the third is the level of components, materials, and equipment. Work is going on, sector by sector, at all these three levels simultaneously," he said.

Citing the telecom sector, Mr. Vaishnaw said the country had earlier imported equipment for 50-60 years. "First, radios, basement units, etc., were designed in India. Then, manufacturing of finished products started, and now, at the component, capital equipment, and materials level, we are building that base," he said. The same example could be given for semiconductors, electronics manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and so on, the Minister said.

On India-U.S. relations

Responding to a query on a positive exchange between U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Modi on social media, Mr. Vaishnaw said: "The Prime Minister has kept such an overall comprehensive policy framework in these 11 years which we had never seen in the past 50-60 years. Because of that, there is a new trust in India all over the world. India is seen in the world with a new hope...the U.S. is a big democracy. India is the world's mother of democracy. It is natural for these two democracies to have good relations".

Kuki groups clarify stance after agreeing to open NH-2

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Two extremist umbrella organisations of Manipur, Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF), clarified that the "reopening" of National Highway 2 does not mean unrestricted movement.

The NH-2 from Assam, via Nagaland, runs through the Kuki-inhabited Kangpokpi district before touching the Imphal Valley, where Meiteis are in a majority.

"...this gesture (by the Kuki Zo Council) must not be misinterpreted as an endorsement of unrestricted movement across buffer zones between Meitei and Kuki-Zo areas," the KNO-UPF statement read.

Process has become the punishment in our criminal justice system: ex-CJI

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The process of administration of criminal justice in the country has become a big punishment, former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said here on Saturday, while calling for fundamental reforms beginning with the public prosecutors.

Speaking at *Lexposium 2025*, a day-long symposium organised by the SRM School of Law in association with *The Hindu*, he said that the judicial process often led to acquittal at the end of the day, but not before the accused had spent several days in prison without bail. Public prosecutors, he said, should be answerable to the courts and not to the bosses by whom they are appointed. The police need to be accountable too, because faulty and delayed investigations led to wrongful incarceration of innocent citizens.

He listed several factors that erode public trust on the judiciary – pendency of cases, high costs of litigation, and procedural complexities which affect justice delivery. "Refinement of proposed laws requires consultation with all stakeholders and meaningful parliamentary debate. Unfortunately, this exercise has declined in recent years" Justice Ramana observed.

Former CJI N.V. Ramana with, from left, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, SRM Group Chancellor T.R. Paarivendhar, and SRMIST Pro-Chancellor (Academics) P. Sathyanarayanan. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Rise in case pendencies

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, senior advocate of the Supreme Court, said the pendency of cases had increased from 3.3 crore in 2018 to 5.02 crore in July 2023. This was due to the ever-constant vacancy of 33% in the High Courts and 25% in the lower courts. "Delayed justice must also be seen as the most egregious and unpardonable form of human rights violations," he noted.

Bail applications, he said, had 81 types of filing and registration in all the High Courts put together. While the average disposal time for bail was 23 days, in Jammu and Kashmir it is 156, in Odisha it was 61, and in Mumbai, 56 days.

Former Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit said that the conviction rate for criminal cases was never more than 20%, which meant that 80% of the undertrials were bound to get acquitted at some point of time. "Unless and until you are dead sure that the person is bound to be convicted, please do not play with the individual liberty of the citizen," he observed.

Additional Solicitor-General Satya Pal Jain said that bail was not a matter of right and that it was the judiciary that examined the application and passed a speaking order. While there were many factors like non-framing of charges, gravity of the offence, and total period of custody, that could be considered for bail, there was no straightjacket formula for it and ultimately depended on the satisfaction of the judicial officer.

T.R. Paarivendhar, Founder and Chancellor, SRM Groups, said there was a innate need for serious and honest lawyers to bring justice to the poor. P. Sathyanarayanan, Pro-Chancellor (Academics), SRMIST, said truth is often elusive, complex and uncomfortable but without truth, justice cannot stand.

SC panel on students' mental health gets State nodal officers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Surveys designed for students, faculty, parents and citizens have received over 1 lakh responses so far

The National Task Force (NTF) set up by the Supreme Court to look into the issue of student suicides and mental health across higher education institutes will have a nodal officer in each State and Union Territory to help with its work, the committee said on Saturday.

The 12-member Task Force, headed by former SC judge Justice Ravindra Bhat, added that the surveys it had launched for students, faculty, parents, and citizens had received over one lakh responses.

A statement by the NTF said that while all higher education institutes, universities, and colleges registered with the All India Survey on Higher Education have been directed to provide responses by September 12, regulatory bodies, including the All India Council for Technical Education, the Pharmacy Council of India, the Bar Council of India, have also been asked to furnish data.

The Department of Higher Education has directed the regulatory bodies to submit data on student/faculty composition by category and quota, mental health services available, records of suicides or attempts of suicide, student dropouts, grievance redressal committees, and challenges and measures related to student well-being.

The NTF was constituted by the top court after parents of students who had died by suicide on higher education campuses had sought relief, arguing that there were not enough institutional guardrails to protect students from issues, including discrimination on campuses.

Investigation into Aland's 'nearly stolen' votes hits cold trail as EC yet to share technical data

The Karnataka CID has been probing a systematic attempt to remove names of 5,994 voters from electoral rolls by forging Form 7 in the Aland Assembly constituency in Kalaburagi district ahead of the 2023 Assembly election; many electors whose names were sought to be deleted and those whose credentials were misused to make the applications had filed complaints with the Aland tehsildar

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Amid the Congress's allegations of electoral roll manipulation, including in Karnataka, by the BJP and partisanship of the Election Commission (EC), the investigation into a case of a systematic attempt to delete names of 5,994 voters in the Aland Assembly constituency in Kalaburagi district of northern Karnataka by forging Form 7 ahead of the Assembly election in 2023 seems to have hit a dead end. The commission has not yet shared crucial technical data reportedly needed to identify the culprits.

The alleged fraud came to light in February 2023.

Senior Congress leader and Aland MLA B.R. Patil, who was defeated by a narrow margin of 697 votes in 2018 by a BJP candidate, was alerted to many applications for deletion of names without the voters' knowledge in his constituency. He complained to the EC.

"One of the booth-level officers (BLOs) got a Form 7 to delete her brother's name when he had not even applied. Her brother was my supporter. The application was made in the name of another voter in the same village, who was also not aware of it. This tipped us off," he told *The Hindu*.

Those whose names were sought to be deleted and those whose credentials were misused to make Form 7 applications for deletion filed complaints to the Aland tehsildar.

The Hindu is in possession of copies of 38 such applications. Following this, an on-ground verification of 6,018 Form 7 applications was carried out.

Mamata Devi, Returning Officer, Aland Assembly constituency, and then Assistant Commissioner, Kalaburagi, in her complaint to the Aland Police on February 21, 2023, said that of the 6,018, only 24 applications were genuine and those names were deleted. The remaining 5,994 continue to stay in their addresses, and unidentified persons with a mala fide intent had applied for deleting their names from the rolls, misusing the credentials of other voters who were not aware of the misuse.

A first information report (26/2023, Aland police station) was filed against unknown persons for forgery, impersonation, and providing false documents. Eventually, the 5,994 names were not deleted and they could vote in the 2023 election, but the investigation remains open to this day.

Shocking turn

Shrishaila Barabayi, 42, a two-wheeler mechanic at Sarasamba village in Aland taluk, whose name is found in part number 71 (serial number 775) of the electoral rolls, recalled how he was shocked to discover an application to delete his name from the voter list, saying he had "shifted".

"I have always lived in this village. I realised there was such an application when the BLO came to check," he said.

Similar is the story of Kashim Ali, 48, an agriculturist with a small landholding at Sarasamba, whose name is found in part number 71 (serial number 563). He said that after the BLO came asking about the application to delete his name in 2023, he assumed it was done and did not vote in the 2023 Assembly or the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. However, based on the BLO report that he continued to stay in the same address, the forged application was rejected.

The Form 7 applications to delete both their names was applied in the name of Suryakant Govin, 67. The name of this retired principal of a private college, now running a pharmacy store at Sarasamba village, is in part number 71 (serial number 1). "There were nine applications made to delete voters in my name from part number 71, where I am also a voter. I don't know how the miscreants did it. In all these applications, while my other credentials including EPIC number and photo are correct, phone numbers given are different in each application. None of them belong to me," he said.

The Hindu spoke to several voters of Aland, whose names were sought to be deleted or forged applications made in their names.

In several cases, names of voters in an entire household were sought to be deleted. For instance, Veeranna Honashetty, a retired policeman, said there were forged applications to delete eight names of his family members, including that of his wife, Revamma, who had contested the Zilla Panchayat election from the Congress.

A pattern observed is that the applicant for deleting names is usually the first voter in that part and in some rare instances, the second.

'Sophisticated work'

The case was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), where after an investigation for two-and-a-half years, the trail seems to have gone cold.

The investigation so far has unravelled a complex web of a sophisticated operation. All Form 7 applications in question have been made through the National Voter Service Portal (NVSP), Voter Helpline App (VHA), and Garuda App of the EC. Correspondence between the CID and the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, shows that the former had requested "IP [Internet Protocol] Logs, Date, Time along with Destination IPs and Destination Ports" of the machines and sessions through which these forged applications were made.

In seven letters written to the CEO, Karnataka between January and April in 2025, apart from five letters written earlier, the CID said: "During the course of investigation, the IP Logs are provided. On perusal the Destination IP and Destination Port are missing. Therefore, it is requested to direct the concerned to provide the same."

However, there has been no response to this specific query, sources said. Without destination IPs and destination ports, the investigation has stalled, sources said.

Sources in the CID said that in September 2023, the EC shared data of over 5,700 forged Form 7s, of which there was complete data of over 4,400 applications. The rest had incomplete data. The EC provided the mobile numbers used to create a login ID and password on one of these three apps, through which all the forged Form 7s in question were submitted, apart from the IP logs.

"We have tracked down nine mobile numbers of the given lot. They are mostly from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The owners of these numbers claim they never created these accounts on either of the ECI apps in question. Many of them are digitally illiterate," a senior official said.

The CID reportedly wrote to telecom service providers (TSPs) and got the public Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) which had IP addresses of the IPV4 kind and each IP address had over 200 users attached to it in the form of dynamic IP addresses. This would mean over eight lakh devices to verify and investigate, sources said.

An IP address is the digital address for a machine on the Internet. This can be used to track a machine from which a particular transaction was made. However, IP addresses are not always static. A dynamic IP is a temporary address assigned to a machine by a server. To narrow down the search, the CID has been asking the EC to share destination IPs and destination ports.

Since geolocation of a machine is challenging with dynamic IPs, destination IPs and destination ports will help investigators narrow down their search significantly and help them track down the devices used to make these forged applications. That is expected to take the investigation further to identify the culprits behind the scandal, sources said. However, the EC has till date not shared this data.

"It is a very sophisticated operation where the culprits are hiding behind three layers of obfuscation. The owners of the mobile numbers used to create login IDs and passwords on one of the three ECI apps do not seem to know of this. Thousands of forged Form 7 applications made using these login ID and passwords use dynamic IPs and each application misuses the credentials of other voters, while only the mobile numbers are different," a senior official said.

OTP verification

An analysis of the *modus operandi* raises questions over security and authentication on the three EC apps.

In its letters to the CEO, the CID has sought "a presentation of the step by step usage of NVSP, VHA and Garuda apps from the voter/public perspective", and posed three questions: Is OTP/multifactor authentication facility adopted in NVSP and VHA apps, platforms? Is the same extended to upload the applications? Does authentication such as OTP verification exist, and whether the OTP is sent to the mobile number used for login or mobile number provided in the form by applicant or both?

There has been no response from the EC yet on these aspects as well, CID sources said.

The Hindu sent an email to the CEO on August 29, asking if the data sought by the CID were provided and how could someone apply for the deletion of a name by misusing the credentials of other voters through the EC apps. Despite a reminder email on September 4, there was no response till the time of going to print.

Mr. Patil, who eventually won the 2023 election by 10,348 votes, said, "If we had not made a big issue about these applications, the votes may have been deleted."

He said most of the names which were sought to be deleted were of Congress voters, raising several questions as to how they were selected.

EC to hold State CEOs' meet over SIR on Sept. 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission will hold a conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) of all States and Union Territories on September 10 to take stock of preparedness for rolling out a nationwide special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

This will be the third meeting of CEOs since Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar took over in February.

A senior EC official said though this was a routine meeting, special focus would be on the preparations under way to roll out the SIR across the country. The controversial exercise is currently on in Bihar.

All CEOs would be making presentations on the number of voters and details of the last intensive revision, the official said.

Though the rolls are summarily revised every year and before each election, through the SIR the EC has sought a list of 11 eligibility documents.

This has been challenged in the Supreme Court, which has asked the commission to consider Aadhaar as an eligibility document in case a voter is unable to furnish any of the 11 indicative documents and is facing deletions from the voter list.

No seat-sharing talks in NDA yet, but Nitish names first candidate

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday declared the first Janata Dal (United) candidate for the Bihar Assembly election even as there has been no official word on seat-sharing in the NDA.

Nitish Kumar

Mr. Kumar named Santosh Kumar Nirala as the JD (U) candidate for the Rajpur (reserve) seat in Buxar district. While addressing a gathering, he asked the people to vote for Mr. Nirala, a former Minister who lost in the 2020 election to Congress candidate Vishwanath Ram.

Pointing towards Mr. Nirala, who was standing on the stage, the Chief Minister said, "We are the people who are working hard together, the election is just a few days away and you people should make him win."

Mr. Kumar was accompanied by Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Parliamentary Affairs Department Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary.

Attacking the Opposition, Mr. Kumar said, "The Congress and others only speak nonsense and have not done any development work. These people messed up whatever departments I gave them and that is the reason I left them." He also said that there had been no development when the Rashtriya Janata Dal was in power.

Mr. Kumar said the Centre had been supporting the State's development. "Bihar will be developed so much and it won't be left behind. Once again Bihar will become one of the topmost developed States in the country," he added.

In Patna, Union Minister and founder of Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) Jitan Ram Manjhi said there was no dispute within the NDA over seat-sharing and whatever "order comes from the headquarters" will be followed. He said that after the Vice-President's election, NDA leaders will meet in Delhi over seat-sharing.

Asked about Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan's demand for seats in the NDA, Mr. Manjhi said, "I do not know anything about him."

After the success of Rahul's yatra, Congress wants to contest more Bihar seats

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Buoyed by the success of the 14-day Voter Adhikar (rights) Yatra in Bihar, the Congress has sought more seats to contest in the upcoming Assembly election than it did in 2020. Though the party contested 70 seats in that election, it won only 19.

There was no "reason to contest fewer than 90 seats" this time, a Congress leader said.

The yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi began from Sasaram in Rohtas district on August 17 and culminated with a march in Patna on September 1, after covering 1,300 km across 24 districts and 110 out of the 243 Assembly constituencies. The Bihar Assembly election is likely to be held in October-November.

On Saturday, Congress leaders in Bihar met their allies, led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), to discuss the issue of seat distribution.

The meeting was held at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's official residence in Patna, sources said. Mr. Yadav is the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

Sources in the RJD told *The Hindu* that party chief Lalu Prasad had been speaking with top Congress leaders in Delhi on seat distribution "for some time".

Talk of town: Rahul Gandhi at a roadshow marking the conclusion of his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Patna on September 1. PTI

Seat sharing

Seat distribution in the Opposition grand alliance may be finalised and announced "some time in the second half of September", sources in the RJD said.

"Several rounds of such meetings will be held in-between."

The grand alliance leaders are meeting again on September 15 in Patna to give a final shape to seat distribution, Congress sources said.

"Yes, after our party leader Rahul Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra in Bihar, there has been unprecedented enthusiasm among the party's supporters and the voters of the State. People have become aware of their voting rights because of this yatra. Of course, we should get more seats this time from the 70 contested in the last election as Rahul Gandhi has emerged as the most talked about and tallest grand alliance leader in the State after the yatra," senior State Congress leader and former All India Congress Committee member Kishore Kumar Jha said.

Asked how many seats the party seeks to contest this time, Mr. Jha said "no fewer than 90 seats".

Sources in the RJD, however, said the Congress would not get more than 60 seats as "we have to accommodate all our allies".

In the 2020 election, the RJD contested 144 seats and emerged as the largest party, winning 75. The BJP won 74 seats, while the Janata Dal (United) stood in the third position with 43 seats.

INBRIEF

Court lets jailed MP Engineer Rashid to vote in V-P election

A Delhi court on Saturday allowed jailed Lok Sabha member from J&K's Baramulla, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid, to vote in the September 9 election for the Vice President. Vikhyat Oberoi, counsel of the MP, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Rashid will not have to pay any amount immediately but has to furnish an undertaking that he will make payment of the travel costs, subject to the outcome of his appeal which is reserved for orders by the Delhi High Court. The appeal is against an instruction asking him to pay lakhs of rupees as travel expenses for attending Parliament on a custody parole.

Will NAA get fresh lease of life with GST overhaul, asks Cong.

The Congress on Saturday asked if the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) will now get a fresh lease of life with the overhaul of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said the NAA had been made under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, to monitor whether GST rate cuts resulted in the reduction of consumer prices. "On September 30, 2024, the Modi government issued a notification virtually abolishing the NAA with effect from April 1, 2025. Will the NAA now have a fresh lease of life? How will it be ensured that the rate cuts do not benefit only a favoured few," he said. This comes just ahead of rate cuts on several items of mass consumption, which comes into force from September 22.

INBRIEF

6 killed as wire of cargo ropeway snaps in Gujarat

Six people died after the cable wire of a cargo ropeway snapped at the renowned Pavagadh Hill temple in Gujarat's Panchmahal district on Saturday, a police official said. Superintendent of Police Haresh Dudhat confirmed the six deaths. He said that police and fire brigade teams were at the spot for rescue and relief operations. The temple is situated at a height of around 800 metres, with pilgrims either choosing to climb some 2,000 steps or use cable cars to reach the summit. However, the ropeway for use by the public was shut since morning due to inclement weather, officials said. The temple attracts around 2.5 million visitors every year. PTI

Modi, Nadda call off dinner for BJP MPs in view of floods

A dinner for BJP MPs scheduled at the residence of party chief J.P. Nadda on Saturday and of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday has been cancelled in view of the severe floods in Punjab and other areas, according to sources. Earlier on Friday, President Droupadi Murmu expressed anguish over the natural calamities during the monsoon this year. "Cloudbursts in the hills and floods in the plains have taken a heavy toll, leaving death and destruction in their wake in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Assam and many other parts of the country... Together we will overcome this challenge," she said.

Two new judges appointed to Allahabad High Court

The Union government on Saturday cleared the appointment of two advocates as judges of the Allahabad High Court. Sharing the information, Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal wrote on X, "In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, the President of India, after consultation with Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Amitabh Kumar Rai and Rajiv Lochan Shukla, advocates, as judges of the Allahabad High Court." The appointment follows a recommendation made by the Supreme Court Collegium in March. The High Court now has 86 judges against 160 sanctioned.

3 owners of 190-year-old gun shop held in gun racket case

The West Bengal Police Special Task Force team arrested three owners of Nursing Chunder Daw & Co., a 190-year-old gun shop in Kolkata. They were allegedly involved in a gun racket. Subir Daw, Abhir Daw, and Subrata Daw are partners of the gun company. The shop is close to the Kolkata Police headquarters. It is a government-licensed gun shop and is overseen by the police to keep track of sales. The illegal deals have raised questions about the police oversight mechanism and lapses in monitoring. The men were arrested on Thursday night. A large consignment of illegal firearms had been recovered from Rahara last month and linked to the shop.

SUDOKU

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4								
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No.SS6634 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	7	3	5	4	8	6	2
5	8	3	1	2	6	9	4	7
2	6	4	7	9	8	3	5	1
8	2	9	4	3	1	5	7	6
7	3	1	5	6	2	4	8	9
6	4	5	9	8	7	1	2	3
3	9	2	8	7	5	6	1	4
1	7	8	6	4	9	2	3	5
4	5	6	2	1	3	7	9	8

GI tag push for traditional items reshapes Bodoland poll narrative

The registration of 21 items, including local textiles and traditional alcoholic beverages, has enthused 26 communities of the Bodoland Territorial Region to have their cultural artefacts GI-tagged; a youth- led initiative helped in gaining GI registration

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Vibrant wear: Bodo textiles with their woven motifs have been recognised with GI tags. PTI

Assam's poll-bound Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) has the usual issues. It also has a new topic of discussion – Geographical Indication or GI tags for its traditional products, crafts, and agricultural items.

Elections in the 8,970-sq. km BTR, governed by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), are scheduled for September 22. The council has 40 constituencies across five districts bordering Bhutan.

A team of Bodo youth undertook an initiative that helped the BTR government get GI registration for 21 items, including local textiles and traditional alcoholic beverages. Awareness about the inherent benefits of such tagging virtually triggered a race among 26 indigenous communities to register their cultural artefacts.

The core members of the team are biotechnologist Ling Narzihary, artist Swapna Muchahary, social worker Kansai Brahma, and entrepreneurs Nachani Brahma, Pulak Basumatary, and Ranjila Mohilary.

"A GI tag fuels economic growth through higher market value and export potential, legal protection against unauthorised use and imitation, cultural preservation, and enhanced consumer trust by assuring quality and authenticity. It also fosters rural development," Mr. Narzihary said.

The team began collecting data in 2021 and identified more than 50 items that qualified for GI tagging. The registration for 21 of these was secured between November 2023 and May 2024. A few months ago, the BTR government launched a special drive to secure the GI tag for the remaining and more traditional items of all 26 communities living in the BTR. Apart from the dominant Bodos, the communities include Adivasis, Gurkhas, Koch-Rajbongshis, Hajongs, Kurukhs, Madahi Kacharis, Hiras, and Patnis.

Recently, the Delhi-based Gandhi Hindustani Sahitya Sabha was roped in to provide expert guidance through a series of workshops, and help various community scholars and leaders to identify and document their respective cultural items for filing GI tag applications.

The goal is to create "GI villages", where clusters of artisans and farmers will be supported with training, infrastructure, and direct market linkages.

ABSU resolution

About a decade ago, the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) adopted a resolution to seek GI tags for items unique to the BTR. The union was then headed by Pramod Boro, one of the key architects of the Bodo Peace Accord in January 2020. The push for GI tagging came after Mr. Boro, who left the ABSU to join the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), became the Chief Executive Member of the BTC in December 2020. The UPPL rules the BTR in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the regional Gana Suraksha Party. The UPPL and the BJP are locked in a three-cornered contest along with the Bodoland People's Front.

One of the priorities of the BTR government, headed by Mr. Boro, was to ensure the recognition and protection of indigenous heritage. The government's objective was similar to that of the team headed by Mr. Narzihary, leading to their collaboration. Among 21 items that received the GI tag are Aronai, Dokhona, and Zwmgra (motif-rich textiles); Kham, Serza, and Siphung (musical instruments); Maibra Zwu Bidwi and Zwu Gisi (alcoholic beverages); Gwkha Gwkhwi and Napham (cuisine) and Gongar Dundia and Khera Daphini (rare medicinal plants).

SC judge says lawyers are 'stewards of Constitution'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice B.V. Nagarathna on Saturday said that the responsibility to work the Constitution did not lie with the people who occupied the corridors of power alone, but extended to every advocate of law.

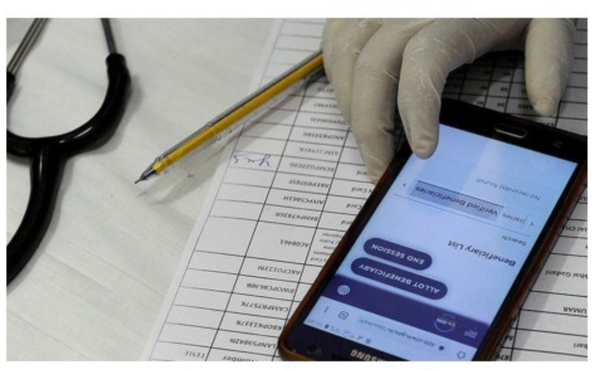
She was delivering the convocation address at the 12th convocation of National Law University, Delhi.

"The responsibility to work the Constitution, in all its magnanimity and good intentions, does not lie only with the people in the power corridors but extends to every lawyer who should be an advocate of the Constitution. You, as a lawyer, are a steward of the Constitution for life. Soon, you will take the oath to uphold the Constitution and that will necessarily mean that you are now responsible for upholding its letter and spirit," she said. She urged the graduates to act as the "officers of the court and stewards of the Constitution", reminding them that their role went beyond litigation.

She advised advocates to let ethics guide their choices over expediency.

CoWIN portal outage since August blocks certificate access across India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI



The vaccination certificates are often part of the documents required for processing of visas for international travel. FILE PHOTO

The CoWIN portal, where the Union and State governments had together recorded over two billion vaccination doses for COVID-19, has been down since early August, a weeks-long outage that has locked many residents in India out of their vaccination certificates.

On August 23, an official source said that they were aware of the issue, and that the outage would be addressed quickly. However, the issue remains.

Throughout the pandemic, the CoWIN portal's certificates were touted as a signature digital achievement of the Union government, and for several months the certificates were required for everything from travelling abroad to essential annexures to job applications.

While COVID-19 vaccination certificates no longer play the passport-like role they did during the most serious waves of the pandemic – owing to near total coverage of at least one dose of vaccine – the outage is not without its victims. "I am unable to download my travel and vaccination certificates, which are essential for visa processing," Sohail Marakkar, a Bengaluru resident, complained on social media platform X on Monday. Mr. Marakkar told *The Hindu* that his travel agency had included a vaccine certificate in the checklist for travelling, and that even the feature of fetching a third-party certificate through DigiLocker was not working.

"The issue will be resolved by Monday. Team is at it," a senior Union Health Ministry official told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

CoWIN (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network), the government's Web portal for COVID-19 vaccination registration, owned and operated by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, serves the function of registration, appointment scheduling, identity verification, vaccination, and certification of each vaccinated member.

Five modules

The CoWIN application was developed with five modules – the orchestration module, vaccination cold chain module, citizen registration module, vaccinator module, and module for certificate, feedback, and adverse event following immunisation reporting. Eight vaccines such as Covishield, Covaxin, Corbevax, and Sputnik-V had been incorporated on the platform. India in 2021 offered the CoWIN platform as a digital public good to the world to combat COVID-19.

On the current demand for the vaccine, Suranjit Chatterjee, consultant, internal medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi, said there was no rush for the COVID vaccine. "We are getting one or two people coming in with requests to get vaccinated, but largely there is not much demand for the vaccines," Dr. Chatterjee said.

Meanwhile, according to the World Health Organization's latest report on the coronavirus in the 28-day period from July 21 to August 17 , 87 countries across five WHO regions reported new COVID-19 cases. "During this 28-day period, a total of 71,687 new cases were reported, which is a decrease compared to the 92,519 new cases reported from 95 countries in the previous 28-day period." the WHO said.

Trinamool Minister gets bail in teacher recruitment scam

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Chandranath Sinha

West Bengal Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Chandranath Sinha surrendered before a court on Saturday and was granted bail in a case pertaining to the primary school teacher recruitment scam.

The case is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate. Mr. Sinha, who is the Minister for Correctional Administration, also holds the portfolio of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles. A special ED court granted bail to the Minister on a personal bond of ₹10,000, subject to certain conditions. The Minister cannot travel outside his Assembly constituency of Bolpur and Kolkata for now.

Mr. Sinha is the second Minister to be named in the chargesheet after former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee.

The ED had recently filed a chargesheet against Mr. Sinha in the recruitment scam after Governor C.V. Ananda Bose gave his consent to prosecute him.

In March 2024, the ED carried out search and seizure operations at the Minister's Bolpur residence, after his name surfaced in the case involving the recruitment of primary teachers. According to the agency, ₹40 lakh in cash was seized from his residence.

The Supreme Court on April 3, this year, cancelled the appointment of 25,000 teachers and non-teaching staff by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) in 2016, citing irregularities.

Mr. Chatterjee was arrested earlier in the case.

Speaking to mediapersons, Mr. Sinha said that he had faith in law and that he will get justice.

790-page chargesheet filed in Raja Raghuvanshi murder case

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A poster paying homage to Raja Raghuvanshi in Sohra town.

The Meghalaya Police have filed a 790-page chargesheet against five persons in the case related to the murder of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi at Sohra on May 23.

Vivek Syiem, Superintendent of Police of East Khasi Hills district, said the chargesheet had been filed in the Sohra subdivision court against Sonam Raghuvanshi, wife of the deceased; Raj Kushwaha, with whom she was allegedly in a relationship; and Akash Singh Rajput, Vishal Singh Chauhan, and Anand Kurmi, the three who committed the murder. He said a supplementary chargsheet would be filed against Lokendra Tomar, Ball Ahirwar, and Silome James, who were arrested from Madhya Pradesh for allegedly destroying evidence.

Sonam and Raj, the two prime accused in the murder, have been booked under three sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"The probe, backed by strong material evidence, revealed that Sonam was in a relationship with Raj. She conspired with him and the three hitmen to murder her husband during their honeymoon trip to Sohra," Mr. Syiem said. "The three assailants carried out the murder in the presence of Sonam," he said. A Special Investigation Team formed by the State police cracked the case within a week.

'Declining Central allocation for MGNREGS affects rural women'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Women constitute more than 50% of the workforce for MGNREGS projects.

There is a direct correlation between declining Central allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the reduced income of rural women, activists of the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, said at a press conference in Delhi to mark the 20th anniversary of the governing law.

Ram Beti, NREGA Sangharsh Morcha activist from Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh, said that prior to the implementation of the rural employment guarantee scheme, men used to be paid double that of women for agricultural work and blue collar jobs. "With MGNREGS, for the first time, we got the same pay for the same work as men," she said. While the number of workers have increased, the budget for the programme has remained the same, she said, slowly starving the welfare programme.

"We are back to the pre-2006 situation since the work under the scheme is no longer available due to a fund shortage," she said.

Women constitute more than 50% of the workforce for MGNREGS projects. This year, out of the total person-days (defined under MGNREGS as the total number of work days by a person registered under the scheme in a financial year), 56% was completed by women.

INBRIEF

M&M passes to clients all GST benefits on ICE SUV portfolio

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Ltd. has become the first automobile company in India to pass on the full GST benefits to customers across its entire ICE SUV (Sport Utility Vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine) portfolio starting Saturday though the revised GST rates will come into effect from September 22. M&M said the ICE portfolio has become cheaper in the range of ₹1.01 lakh for Thar 4WD diesel and Scorpio Classic to ₹1.56 lakh for XUV3XO diesel.

Tesla to award Musk $1 trillion if firm achieves lofty targets

Tesla's board has proposed a new compensation plan for CEO Elon Musk valued at about $1 trillion upon achieving certain lofty targets. The proposed package, which would be the largest in corporate history if approved, underscores Tesla's bet on Mr. Musk to steer transformation from a carmaker into a technology powerhouse. The plan is expected to be tied to ambitious performance milestones, including growth in AI-driven products. REUTERS

RRP Electronics signs four MoUs to boost operations

RRP Electronics Ltd. has signed four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) aimed at strengthening India's domestic semiconductor ecosystem while positioning the country as a trusted global hub. These four MoUs are expected to generate cumulative revenue of ₹15 crore onwards, while also driving skill development, innovation, and professional courses in semiconductors – identified as the need of the hour for India's technological advancement, the company added.

Jane Street may push rethink of derivative norms, say experts

As per SEBI study, in FY24 foreign investors/proprietary traders together made gross profit of ₹61,000 cr. while individual traders lost similar sum

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Jane Street's alleged market manipulation and the events that subsequently unfolded may change the way the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approaches the derivative markets regulation.

SEBI has been taking steps to curb the potential for manipulating markets even at the cost of reducing volumes. This included investor education on derivatives trading and even a temporary ban on Jane Street which was later revoked after a fine was paid.

However, experts state the episode strengthens the case for contemplating restricted access to the derivative market.

"The episode exposes how quantitative sophistication can prey on uninformed liquidity," said Sonam Chandwani, managing partner, KS Legal & Associates. "There is a growing case for suitable frameworks where retail access to leveraged or exotic derivatives is conditioned upon financial literacy or minimum thresholds much like accredited investor norms elsewhere," she added.

A case for reducing access finds support among many members of the finance profession. For instance, Ashish Gupta, chief investment officer of Axis Mutual Fund, said in India, the index market had risen to 500 times the cash market, and India, which is the largest derivative market, is also among the most open in terms of retail access to the complex product.

He added, "there is consensus among the government and the regulator that retail participation in derivatives needs to decrease." E-mails sent to SEBI and the Ministry of Finance regarding this were unanswered till press time.

Stick policy: SEBI has been taking steps to curb the potential for manipulating markets, reducing volumes. REUTERS

Cash equity market

To be sure, broker association, Association of National Exchange Members of India(ANMI) had recently announced they were studying the possibility of making cash equity markets more attractive than derivatives and include strategies to prevent uninformed individuals from entering the retail derivatives market.

The market regulator's data also supports Ms. Chandwani's and Mr. Gupta's comments and adds weight to ANMI's efforts.

A SEBI study released last year underlined foreign investors and proprietary traders together made a gross profit of ₹61,000 crore, while individual traders lost a similar sum in FY24. More than 95% of the profit came via algorithmic trading, the regulator said. The findings showed despite steps taken to keep the markets immune from speculation, the share of individual traders who lost remained more or less the same.

Foreign portfolio investors extend selling streak

Anupama Ghosh
MUMBAI

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) extended selling streak in Indian markets, withdrawing a net ₹10,486.85 crore ($1,202.82 million) over four trading days from September 1-4, as per data from National Securities Depository Ltd..

The sustained outflow reflects mounting global uncertainties and valuation concerns that have kept foreign investors cautious about Indian equities. The heaviest single-day outflow occurred on September 1 when the FPIs pulled out ₹7,715.43 crore ($878.25 million), marking the most significant withdrawal during the period.

Equity markets bore the brunt of foreign selling, with FPIs withdrawing ₹11,256.93 crore.

This was followed by net outflows of ₹2,621.77 crore ($297.06 million) on September 2 and ₹445.76 crore ($50.59 million) on September 4. September 3 provided the only respite with net inflows of ₹1,277.06 crore ($145.08 million).

Equity markets bore the brunt of foreign selling, with FPIs withdrawing ₹11,256.93 crore across the four trading sessions. The equity segment saw consistent outflows on three of the four days, with September 1 recording highest single-day equity withdrawal of ₹8,982.89 crore.

"Multiple factors contributed to this risk-off sentiment – a stronger dollar, renewed U.S. tariff threats and continuing geopolitical tensions added to global uncertainty," Himanshu Srivastava, associate director - manager research, Morningstar Investment, said.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Vietnam's Vingroup eyes new India businesses

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Vietnam's Vingroup JSC is looking to get into various sectors, including hospitality and green energy in India, besides consolidating its presence in the automotive segment, a top company executive said. The firm is also looking to set up smart cities in India.

Vingroup, through its subsidiary VinFast, on Saturday forayed into the passenger vehicle sector with the introduction of two electric models.

Adani, Druk Green to set up ₹6,000-crore Bhutan power unit

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Adani Power Ltd. and Druk Green Power Corp. Ltd. (DGPC), Bhutan's state-owned generation utility, have signed a shareholders agreement for setting up the 570 MW Wangchhu hydroelectric project in Bhutan. An in-principle understanding on power purchase agreement (PPA) has also been signed.

The Wangchhu project would see an investment of about ₹6,000 crore in setting up the renewable energy power plant and related infrastructure, the company said. With the preparation of the detailed project report already completed, construction work is expected to begin by the first half of 2026, and the completion is targeted within five years of groundbreaking, Adani Power said on Saturday.

Adani Group and DGPC are engaged in further discussions on future projects under a strategic partnership, the company said.

Firms must cut chaos off data to make it predictive, insightful

The Hindu Bureau

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become inevitable, however, the technology's success depends on whether enterprises can turn messy, fragmented, unstructured data that lies in diverse silos into something reliable, clean and trustworthy. No doubt data is gold, but there's also glass inside, so it is critical to isolate the glass before the gold is put to use.

AI dazzles with its promise of predictive insights, personalised experiences and automated intelligent decision-making. But these magical offerings fizzle into chaos if the quality of the data it feeds on suffers.

These were the key takeaways from an industry roundtable on Data Without Chaos: Building the Foundations for AI@Work, organised by The Hindu Group and powered by IBM, the tech giant. The roundtable, first in the series held in Bengaluru saw the participation of a 10-member panel comprising CXOs, technologists, data scientists, AI strategists, advisers, consultants and educators.

Lab to mainstream

Well, until a few years ago, businesses were still debating whether AI was necessary at all, but in the last couple of years, that question has been quickly hijacked by a sense of urgency backed by a flurry of activities in a rush to embrace AI as it offered predictable outcomes and unmatchable customer experiences.

Moderator Mr. Nagaraj Nagabushanam, Vice-President, Data and Analytics and also Designated AI Officer, *The Hindu* set the tone for a true-blue B2B AI conversation by saying: "Nobody is asking why AI, anymore. The question now is what outcomes will it deliver."

Yes, nobody asked why, instead they plunged into discussions, as it was clear to everyone that AI is increasingly becoming mainstream, it is getting into frontline operations, becoming part of corporate policies, supply chain decisions, customer relations, and certainly AI now is not something that is 'just out of a research lab.'

But the challenge is: for AI to deliver the desired outcomes, the data must be clean and AI-ready.

According to one of the panelists, Harish Ramarao, Senior VP-Product Engineering at ACKO Technologies, the biggest issue is timeliness, correctness or freshness of the data.

Mr. Ramarao said, "A customer, when he or she bought an insurance policy, they would have said they are single. Two years down the line, he or she gets married and that information comes from somewhere, maybe via a chatbot interface to the company. So, the consumer's latest data is different than the original data." The customer would expect the system to know this latest change when they call the company. So, correctness of the data or freshness of the data is key to customer satisfaction.

Lakshminarayan Swaminathan, Head of Product Management and Design at Myntra highlighted the unevenness of systems across the enterprises. "Each system has different levels of maturity, even as we try to prepare for readiness. I think it will vary because there is a kind of prioritisation that we need to do. Each of our data systems is at a different level of maturity. We can't make everything AI-ready at once, so we have to prioritise where the impact will be highest." In some sense, the way we are at least trying to see it as usable data is not very contextual. I don't think each of our data systems are at the same level of maturity," Mr. Swaminathan added.

Legacy organisations

Joining the conversation was Suresh Vijayraghavan, CTO of The Hindu Group, with his narration of the early years of the 150-year-old publishing group's digital transformation and content digitisation journey ushered in by computerisation in 1992.

According to him, it was in 2003 The Hindu Group started digitisation, although pages were already being done on computers way back in 1992 itself. Still, for some years, data remained manual and today the data of the organisation has evolved over multiple systems.

"Data is gold, but there's also glass inside. You must isolate the glass before you can use the gold," cautioned Mr. Vijayraghavan.

He said, the content the group had in 1878 was as good as what was generated yesterday, but the structure was different. "The machines that generated data 25 years ago and the machines that generate data today, they have different data sets altogether, different capabilities. So, when they want to use this huge amount of data they have to ensure that this is correct." For the media, the challenge was integrating data produced by very different systems across decades and through multiple generations as in the case of The Hindu Group.

Speed vs. rigour?

For fast-moving digital sectors, speed is the essence. Experiments are launched quickly, sometimes with little structure, but in regulated and asset-heavy industries, sloppy experimentation can damage trust or invite regulators, commented moderator, Mr. Nagaraj.

THE HINDU GROUP
presents
AI@WORK
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS WITH AI
in association with
IBM

Guardrails over greed

Dipesh Shah, Executive President & CTO, Havells India, argued for discipline and said, process won't really slow you down – it actually speeds you up in the long run. That's why I'll always side with rigour over rushing. Avoid temptation and greed. You need to build the framework around governance: confidentiality, privacy, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, etc.

Mr. Shah cautioned, "We need a culture of no greed, no temptation. Just because the data is there doesn't mean we should use it without guardrails."

The panellists in general agreed there was a need to move quickly where stakes were low while enforcing strong frameworks where stakes were high.

Dismantling data silos

In the breaking silos and building abstractions round, much of the conversations circled around data silos. They (silos) weren't just the product of organisational turf wars, several argued, but said they were often historical accidents.

"Silos aren't just turf wars. They're historical accidents – old mainframes, mid-generation databases, and today's clickstreams. The key is to abstract the data model," Mr. Ramarao of ACKO put it crisply, appending that abstraction, understanding what data means, regardless of where it sits, was what allowed enterprises to unify decades of fragmented information.

No single cloud world

As the panel moved on to talking about hybrid cloud and cost factor, the moderator stated that cloud was no silver bullet, observing, few companies were purely cloud-native, but most live with some hybrid or multi-cloud configuration.

Sandhya Kapoor, Senior VP, Head, Central Platform Organisation at Flipkart, was of the opinion that: "Cloud choices are often forced by regulations, by availability of certain models, or simply by cost. No one is living in a single-cloud world anymore," she observed.

Again, cost was the sharpest constraint for adoption, for many. "Moving a terabyte of data from one cloud to another can blow up your budget before you even run a query," added another panelist.

A pragmatic approach should be maintained, to keep some workloads on-ground, burst to the cloud when scale is needed, and weigh every move against cost and compliance, the participants concluded.

Blame, pride

Moving on to discussing culture and data strategy, the moderator said, technology solved only half the problem, while culture solved the rest.

Sudhir Kumar, MD, Petronet MHB Ltd. rephrased it: "Call someone a data owner and they get cautious. Call them a data champion, and they take pride in solving the problem."

From curiosity to ROI

Almost every enterprise has been investing in AI preparedness and in building required skill sets in the last some years. The challenge now is around showing results, remarked moderator, Mr. Nagaraj.

Mr. Shah chipped in saying: there has been a lot of focus, energy and attention currently on getting some ROI(return on investment) out as already a lot of money has been sunk into AI investments, or so-called AI investment people thinking that they're investing in air but they really have no clue. "But they want ROI. So, give me a company in the last one year that has not done at least upskilling employees on some AI tool. Now, it has to pay off, which means people have to experiment," he said.

Dr. Pavankumar Gurazada, Associate Director-AI/Data Science at Great Learning, described the gap he has been witnessing in markets. "No enterprise has come to us with squeaky-clean data and said, just train our people on generative AI and they'll be off to the races. That has never happened. So, in one sense, to have that expectation itself is sort of incorrect."

Vinoth Vijayan, Head of Hybrid Cloud & Data Services, IBM Consulting, India and South Asia shared his perspective saying: "Aligning your platform capabilities with business alignment is critical – otherwise you'll spend heavily and never reach production."

Siddhesh Naik, Country Leader, Data and AI, India and South Asia, IBM, emphasised on the pressure from boardrooms. "Boards are asking for outcomes, not pilots. Every company has upskilled for AI, now pressure is to deliver ROI."

To a moderator's query on strategies companies are deploying to unify siloed data sources, Mr. Naik said, "It starts in a modular approach. For example, it starts from a data-pipeline observability. I need to figure out what's failing and how do I get to the right level and go to fix it." Data pipeline observability is the ability to deeply monitor and understand the real-time health, performance, and behaviour of data pipelines. The second approach, he said, was to create an AI data foundation, a lake house and also build the piece of end-to-end data governance.

Trust, security

As AI moves into critical processes, the risks continue to rise. Regulators demand explainability. Customers demand privacy. CIOs and CISOs are under pressure to secure foundations, the panel conceded.

Mr. Naik said, "The customer is ultimately owner of the data." The message loud and clear was trust and resilience are as important as accuracy or efficiency. On building on centralised foundations, Pranjal Singh, Staff Data Scientist at B2B e-commerce platform, Udaan said. "We moved from the ML era to the GA era by first centralising data. Without that foundation, nothing scales." A genetic algorithm (GA) is an optimisation and search technique that mimics natural selection to find optimal or near-optimal solutions to complex problems. The journey so far has been about building foundations and then trying to build innovation around it. A simple message was: no amount of model sophistication can compensate for weak data plumbing.

AI readiness

As the interactive session neared closure, the discussion quickly circled back to the key theme: Data Without Chaos. Every participant recognised AI was inevitable and agreed the challenges were real. The message for business leaders was they cannot leapfrog into AI maturity by buying a model or signing a cloud contract. Instead, they must begin by tending to data pile: cleaning it, governing it, abstracting it, managing it and securing it. They must shape an AI culture and data strategy that values rigour over hype, clarity over greed and temptation.

"AI adoption was not about chasing magic. It's about building trust – trust in your data, trust in your systems, trust in the outcomes," summed up *The Hindu's* Mr. Nagaraj.

Ms. Kapoor said there are healthy conversations around AI adoptions, and sometimes conflicts too, when technical stakeholders and product teams put their heads together and start looking under the hood as part of preparedness for deployments.

Rocks' carbon storage capacity vastly overestimated: study

The Hindu Bureau

Many scientists and policymakers are counting on storing CO_2 deep underground as an important way to fight climate change. Such known as geological carbon storage involves capturing CO_2 from sources like power plants or directly from the air and injecting it into rock formations, where it can remain for centuries. However, so far, most discussions have treated underground storage as if it were limitless.

A new study in *Nature* has challenged this assumption, warning that the earth can only safely hold about 1,460 billion tonnes of CO_2 underground. If countries design climate strategies without knowing how much storage is really available, they may rely too heavily on an option that can't deliver. Setting a limit forces governments to plan more carefully, reduce emissions faster, and carbon storage as a scarce resource, and acknowledge the need for a more realistic response.

To calculate this limit, the researchers, from Europe, the UK, and the US, built a global map of sedimentary basins, which are large rock formations most suitable for CO_2 storage. Then they systematically ruled out areas where storage would be too risky, e.g. basins near earthquake zones, in polar regions, and in biodiversity hotspots. Finally, the team considered practical constraints like storage depth and offshore drilling limits. By adding up what remained, they found that only a tenth of the previously estimated global capacity, of around 11,800 billion tonnes, was suitable.

Nearly every climate scenario that aims to keep global warming below 2° C assumes large amounts of CO_2 will be stored underground. But at today's pace, storage use would grow so rapidly that this new planetary limit could be crossed by 2200. The study also showed that countries don't share this capacity equally: it's higher in Russia, the US, and Saudi Arabia and lower in India and many European countries.

The study also capped the maximum possible temperature reversal through storage to about 0.7° C, meaning underground storage alone can't fix global warming. Second, treating storage as a finite resource raises questions about whether it should be used to keep burning fossil fuels a little longer or to remove carbon from the air to benefit future generations.

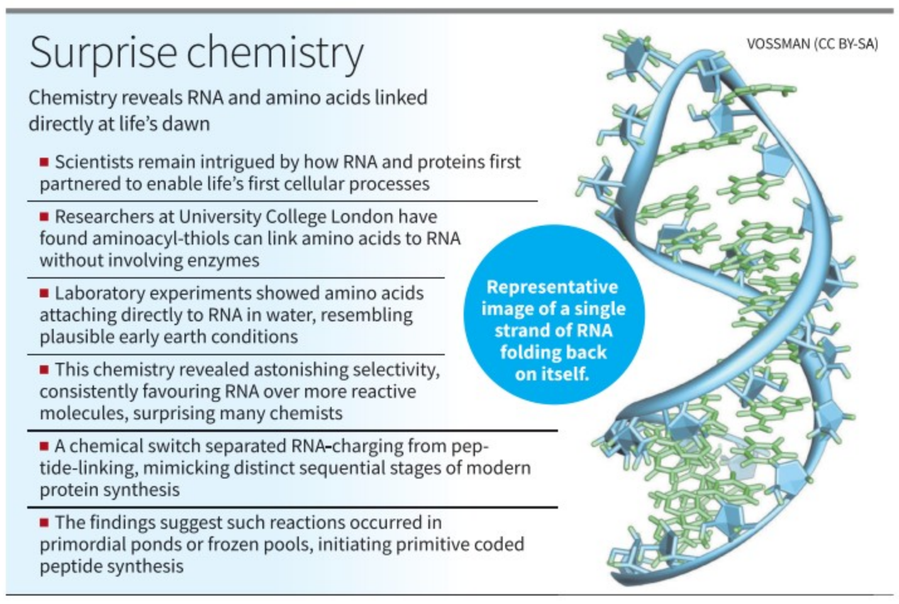
Finally, the study is clear that emission cuts remain the most viable way forward. Carbon storage may help but it won't replace faster transitions to renewable energy, changes in industry, and conservation of natural carbon sinks.

A press note issued by *Nature* clarified: "The authors note that a key limitation of this analysis is not accounting for the obstacles of scaling up carbon capture and storage technology or considering any other technologies that might be developed in the future."

How RNA, amino acids may have linked up on early earth

By showing amino acids latch directly onto RNA without enzymes, researchers have provided striking evidence that life's essential partnership between genes and proteins might have begun in ordinary ponds or frozen pools billions of years ago

Anirban Mukhopadhyay


Surprise chemistry
Chemistry reveals RNA and amino acids linked directly at life's dawn
Scientists remain intrigued by how RNA and proteins first partnered to enable life's first cellular processes
Researchers at University College London have found aminoacyl-thiols can link amino acids to RNA without involving enzymes
Laboratory experiments showed amino acids attaching directly to RNA in water, resembling plausible early earth conditions
This chemistry revealed astonishing selectivity, consistently favouring RNA over more reactive molecules, surprising many chemists
A chemical switch separated RNA-charging from peptide-linking, mimicking distinct sequential stages of modern protein synthesis
The findings suggest such reactions occurred in primordial ponds or frozen pools, initiating primitive coded peptide synthesis
VOSSMAN (CC BY-SA)
Representative image of a single strand of RNA folding back on itself.

Life depends on a partnership between RNA, which stores instructions, and proteins, which do the work of building and running cells. But how this partnership began has long puzzled scientists. To make a protein, constituent amino acids must be linked in the order encoded by RNA. Today, a complex biological machine called the ribosome handles this task – but only after each amino acid is first "loaded" onto an RNA adapter. The catch is that the enzymes responsible for this loading are themselves proteins, creating a chicken-and-egg puzzle that has intrigued chemists for decades.

A new study in *Nature* offers a glimpse of how this riddle might have been resolved. Researchers at University College London found that simple molecules called aminoacyl-thiols can link amino acids to RNA without enzymes.

Think of amino acids as beads and RNA as the thread. In cells today, enzymes act as skilled hands to string them together. The team showed that, in the right conditions, with aminoacyl-thiols the beads can fasten themselves to the thread in plain water, much like on the early earth.

More strikingly, this aminoacyl-thiol chemistry favours RNA over other, more reactive molecules, which is an unexpected selectivity that has astonished chemists.

"It's remarkable that RNA, which is relatively unreactive, undergoes aminoacylation in water despite the presence of more reactive species," said Tom Sheppard, a chemist at UCL not involved in the study.

He added that the chemistry appears robust across many amino acids and simple enough that other labs should be able to reproduce it. By giving RNA a clear chemical advantage, aminoacyl-thiols may have paved the way for the first steps of protein synthesis.

For scientists who study life's beginnings, the discovery is more than a clever bit of chemistry: it's a breakthrough that ties two of life's building blocks together in conditions that could have existed billions of years ago.

"Previous research often looked at either how peptides (chains of amino acids) could form or how nucleotides could form, but rarely how the two might interact," Sheppard said. "What makes this work significant is that it shows RNA and amino acids talking to each other directly, without any intermediary."

"This opens a lot of exciting directions to investigate the origins and evolution of protein translation," Matthew Powner, who led the work, said.

Selectivity, surprises

What struck the researchers the most was not just that the reaction worked but that it showed such uncanny precision. The amino acids latched onto RNA ends in a way that reflects how life does to this day.

Powner said the reactivity was the heart of the discovery: "If I had to pick only one thing that was the most astounding, it would be the unexpected reactivity between aminoacyl-thiols and RNA that led to unprecedented selectivity at neutral pH."

Sheppard pointed out another interesting facet. Thioesters were once thought to be simple precursors to peptides, but the study found that they are not good at making peptides directly. "Instead," he said, "they may have played a different role: guiding amino acids onto RNA."

Even more intriguingly, the team discovered that a simple chemical switch could separate two key stages of modern protein synthesis. With thioesters, amino acids preferentially attach to RNA. But when those same molecules are converted into thioacids, the chemistry flips, favouring the formation of peptide bonds instead. That means the two steps of protein building – RNA-charging and peptide-linking – can be carried out in the same solution but under distinct chemical modes of activation.

The team did not stop there. They also explored where these aminoacyl-thiols might have come from.

Their experiments suggested they could form from simple precursors such as nitriles and thiols, even under frigid conditions that concentrated the ingredients and sped up reactions.

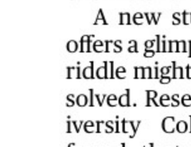
This implies the chemistry linking amino acids to RNA may not have required rare settings: it could have unfolded in the ponds or frozen pools of a young earth.

Both Powner and Sheppard agreed that this chemistry is just a starting point. The peptides made so far are very short, and figuring out how to extend them will be the next challenge.

"One can imagine a gradual evolution of complexity in the aminoacylation reaction," Sheppard said, "leading to increasing levels of control by RNA over the peptides that could be formed, and hence the development of a primitive coded peptide synthesis."

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from Delhi)

On the move with green hydrogen

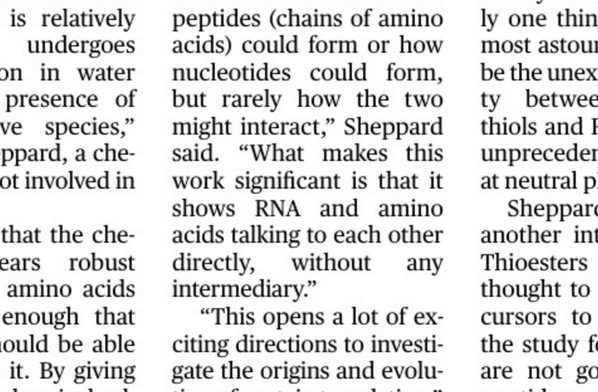


SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

The Indian Railways recently announced that a hydrogen-powered train, developed at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, has successfully completed all tests. This is a welcome sign of progress for the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to produce at least five million metric tonnes of green hydrogen per year by the year 2030, a milestone on the way to achieving nationwide net zero emissions by 2070.

The train will soon be carrying passengers between Jind and Sonipat on an 89-km route in Haryana. This project will rely on hydrogen produced in Jind by a 1-MW polymer electrolyte membrane electrolyser that produces 430 kg of hydrogen every day. The hydrogen will refill fuel tanks on the train, where fuel cells will convert the hydrogen to electricity that runs the train's electric motors.

The principle is quite simple. An electrolyser splits a water molecule into oxygen, protons, and electrons. In an electrochemical reaction at the negative electrode (called the anode), molecular oxygen is released, and the electrons liberated are conducted to the cathode via an external circuit. The polymer electrolyte membrane between the cathode and the anode is selective and only allows protons to pass through to the cathode, where they unite with the electrons to form hydrogen molecules. These rise as a gas and are collected, compressed, and stored. The membrane, typically a fluoropolymer such as Nafion (related to Teflon) is an excellent insulator, and electrons will not pass. The hydrogen and oxygen formed are clearly separated.



A facility in Jind will soon produce green hydrogen to be used as fuel for a locomotive. MIGUEL BAIXAULI/UNSPLASH

In the locomotive, as in a hydrogen-powered automobile, the above reaction is reversed in the hydrogen fuel cell. Hydrogen is brought to the anode, where each molecule is catalytically split into two protons and two electrons. The protons pass through the membrane to the cathode, where they meet oxygen in air and the electrons that are brought through an external circuit from the anode. Water is formed. The electrons flowing through the external circuit constitute the electric current that powers the locomotive.

There is a key difference between the chemical reactions in the fuel cell and in the electrolyser. The chemistry between hydrogen and oxygen is spontaneous, a reaction waiting to happen. Water, however, will not split into the two elements by itself. Electrical current must be supplied to provide the energy for this electrochemical reaction.

To produce green hydrogen, the electricity for the electrolysers has to come from renewable sources, such as solar panels or wind turbines. New sources of renewable energy will be needed to meet the goals of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Also under way are exciting attempts to produce hydrogen in microbial electrolytic cells, where electrochemically active microbes grow on anodes and oxidize organic matter – agricultural residues, even wastewater – and pass the electrons generated to the anode (*Current Science*, vol. 128, p. 133, 2025).

The catalysis steps require expensive materials such as platinum, iridium, etc. Ongoing research is aimed at replacing these with inexpensive nickel, cobalt, or even iron. In early work towards cheap hydrogen generation, the group of C.N.R. Rao at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research designed nickel-nickel hydroxide-graphite electrodes with a water-splitting capability comparable to platinum electrodes (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, vol. 114, 2017). Combining such developments with solar and microbe-driven processes can produce a fuel that is both green and inexpensive.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani)

SNAPSHOTS

Nails played a crucial role in rodent diversity

By surveying over 400 genera, researchers have found that most rodents today have thumbnails rather than claws. Nails were linked with using the hands to manipulate food at the mouth; however, rodents that only used their mouths to eat often lost the thumbnail while those that lived underground tended to evolve claws on the thumb for digging. These patterns arose independently multiple times. The findings show the thumbnail wasn't a useless remnant but an adaptation that supported feeding efficiency.

North America affects monsoon rain over India

Scientists using climate models have found that North America plays a role in strengthening monsoon rainfall over both South Asia. By warming during summer, North America alters global air circulation, boosting the North Pacific high-pressure system and shifting the Hadley circulation. These changes drive winds that carry more moisture towards Asia, enhancing rainfall. For Indian monsoon, North America's role can even outweigh Tibet's. South America, Australia, and Antarctica experience smaller impacts.

Türkiye earthquakes affected land 1,000 km away

The February 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye disturbed the West Caspian region more than 1,000 km away. Using satellite radar, GPS, and seismic data, researchers observed eruptions or deformation at 56 mud volcanoes and slips along seven faults. The fault movement unfolded silently, releasing energy equivalent to a magnitude 6.1 event. Many affected areas were close to hydrocarbon fields, suggesting a link between crust fluids and fault behaviour.

Question Corner

Blood moon

Why is a blood moon called so?

Sky gazers in India and in other parts of the world will be able to witness a blood moon on September 7 during a total lunar eclipse. The moon will take on a dark red-copper hue. This is the result of a physical effect called Rayleigh scattering. During a total lunar eclipse, the earth comes between the sun and the moon, blocking direct sunlight from striking the lunar surface. However, not all sunlight is blocked. Only the bluer light is filtered out; the redder light is scattered by the earth's atmosphere, giving the moon its striking colour. This phenomenon is called Rayleigh scattering. When light interacts with particles smaller than its wavelength, the intensity of the scattered light is inversely proportional to its wavelength. This is why earthsky appears blue: it has the shortest wavelength in visible light. During a blood moon, however, the bluer light is absorbed by the earth's atmosphere while the redder light is refracted towards the moon. The precise hue depends on dust and smoke levels in the atmosphere.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

How much is spent on children's education in India?

What does a recent report by the National Sample Survey show? Why is there a divide between girls and boys?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

Despite a recent drop in the World Economic Forum's gender gap rankings, partly due to the education category, India has made steady progress in recent years in terms of enrolling more girls in school, with government data showing that girls now make up 48% of the school population. In higher education, in fact, the gross enrolment ratio for women is slightly higher than that of men. However, data collected as part of the National Sample Survey earlier this summer show a more insidious gender gap that remains in education – the differing amounts of money that families spend on their sons as opposed to their daughters for their education.

What are the differences in expenditure?

The recent report on the Comprehensive Modular Survey on education, which collected nationwide data between April and June as part of the 80th round of the NSS, shows that the per-student expenditure on girls is lower than on boys during all stages of school education, from pre-primary to higher secondary, as well as across the rural-urban divide. The survey covered 52,085 households in 2,384 villages and 1,982 urban blocks across the country, with education-related information collected for 57,742 students currently enrolled in school.

In States such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala, boys and girls go to government and private schools in almost equal ratios

In rural India, families spent ₹1,373 or 18% more on boys than girls in terms of course fees, textbooks, and stationery, uniforms, and transportation to school. In urban India, the per-student expenditure on girls was ₹2,791 less than on boys. In urban India, by the time students are in higher secondary school, there is almost 30% more being spent on education for boys than girls. When course fees alone are considered, the gap widens, with families paying on average 21.5% more on fees for boys than for girls across the country.

This prioritising of boys' education is also clear in the type of schools that Indian families choose for their children. About 58.4% of girls are enrolled in government schools, which are usually free of cost in terms of course fees, with only 29.5% of them having access to more expensive private school education. However, 34% of boys are enrolled in private unaided schools. The gap goes beyond the school classroom, and extends to private tuitions that many families consider essential for a quality education. Tuition classes now supplement school teaching at all stages of education, and overall, 26% of girls and 27.8% of boys are enrolled in such classes. When it comes to expenditure, however, the gap widens, especially in higher classes. By the higher secondary level, families are spending on average 22% more in terms of tuition fees on their boys in comparison to girls.

How does this vary by State?

States differ widely in terms of the gender gap in education. When it comes to enrolment of girls and boys in government schools versus private schools for instance, the biggest gaps can be seen in States/UTs such as Delhi, where almost 54% of boys go to government schools, compared to more than 65% of girls. On the other hand, almost 38.8% of boys go to more expensive private schools, compared to 26.6% of girls. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Punjab also have gender gaps of more than 10 percentage points. In Gujarat, the gender gap is striking in urban areas, but narrower in rural areas. In States such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala, boys and girls go to government and private schools in almost equal ratios, while several northeastern States have flipped the script, sending more girls to private schools. Expenditures are more nuanced, especially in the higher classes. In higher secondary education, for instance, families in Telangana, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal spend vastly more on boys than girls, though they spent more on girls at the secondary level. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, the average education expenditure on girls at the secondary level is ₹23,796 compared to ₹22,593 on boys. In higher secondary, however, the expenditure on boys in the State has shot up to ₹35,973, compared to just ₹19,412 for girls. Part of this can be attributed to girls dropping out at that stage, though subsidies for girl students could also account for some of the difference. States like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala also spend more on higher secondary girls, especially in urban India, where data shows that transport costs become a major factor, with parents intent on safety of the girl.

Expenditure on private coaching also varied by State, especially at the higher secondary level. In Himachal Pradesh, for instance, there was a stark gap between the ₹9,813 spent per boy student in higher secondary school enrolled for private tuition in comparison to the ₹1,550 spent per girl. Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu were among other States which showed significant gender gaps in this regard.

Will the GST rate cuts boost the economy?

Which sectors will benefit from the sweeping changes? Which sectors are disgruntled about the change? How long has the rationalisation process been going on? Did the imposition of 50% U.S. tariffs weigh on the decision? What about revenue implications? What lies ahead?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

On September 3, the GST Council authorised a new paradigm in the indirect tax regime. There will be fewer rates, and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on most items have been reduced. While this has been welcomed by most sectors, there are some which are somewhat disgruntled. There are also concerns over the revenue implications.

What prompted these changes?

The rationalisation of the multiple rates in GST has been on the anvil for a long time. The Council had in September 2021 constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into rate rationalisation. This GoM began its work, but seemingly little progress was made. The GoM was composed entirely of representatives from the States, with no representative from the Centre. So, in order to nudge it in the direction it wanted, the Union government had to make a proposal to the GoM. The Ministry of Finance on August 15, 2025, announced that it had submitted its proposal to the GoM. Earlier that same day, in his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that these "next-generation" GST reforms would be a Deepavali gift to the nation.

By August 21, 2025, the GoM – following a briefing by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman – had accepted the proposals and forwarded them to the GST Council. The Council then deliberated on these proposals on September 3 during a 10.5-hour-long meeting, following which it announced its decisions.

What are the changes?

The existing GST structure has multiple rates, even when considering only the main ones. The main rates comprise 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%, and a compensation cess over and above the 28% slab. This has been reduced to main slabs of 0%, 5%, 18% and 40%. The compensation cess for most items has been removed. It is still levied on tobacco products, but even that will be removed by the end of this calendar year, when the Centre pays back the loan it took to compensate States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The States will have to look for their own sources of revenue to make up any losses

Apart from this, many items have been moved to lower tax slabs. According to an analysis by the State Bank of India's economics research wing, of the 453 items that saw a change in their GST rate, 413 (or a little more than 91%) saw rates being cut, while 40 items saw rates increasing. The bulk of the rate reductions – 257 items, mostly common use products – were from the 12% to the 5% slab. Out of the 40 items that saw their rates increase, 17 were moved from the 28% slab to 40%. Here, it is important to note that the actual tax incidence might not have increased. For example, once the compensation cess is added, the effective tax rate on luxury cars and SUVs is 45-50%. That will go down to 40%.

Much relief: The BJP celebrating new rates, in Bengaluru, on September 5. PTI

Why were they necessary?

There are several reasons why the GST rate cuts make sense now. The first is that the legal period for the GST compensation cess will likely be coming to an end this calendar year. It can be levied up to March 31, 2026 or till when the Centre pays off its loans, whichever is earlier. Ms. Sitharaman said she expects the loans to be repaid this calendar year. The removal of this cess, without raising the base rates on tobacco products, would mean that these 'sin' goods would have suddenly become significantly cheaper. This is something the Union government could not be seen to be condoning. That set a time limit by when the new rates had to be implemented. The other reason is that the government expects some sort of detrimental impact from the 50% tariff imposed by the U.S. on imports from India. This is clear from the fact that, despite a strong 7.8% GDP growth in Q1 of this financial year, the government has not changed its 6.3%-6.8% growth estimate for the full year, implying it expects growth in the subsequent quarters to be significantly slower. The boost from the GST rate cuts is expected to offset this hit. The government, however, has officially denied any such connection, saying the GST changes were part of an overall reforms push and not related to the tariffs.

Which sectors were happy with the reforms?

The healthcare industry voiced its approval of the changes, saying the decision to reduce GST in the sector from 12% to 5% on a wide range of medical products would directly benefit patients. The renewable energy sector, too, praised the decision to reduce taxes on renewable energy components from 12% to 5%, saying this was a progressive step towards accelerating India's clean energy transition. Consumer appliance makers were also upbeat about the cuts, saying it would boost demand, especially in the run-up to the festive season.

The real estate sector said that bringing down the GST rate on cement from 28% to 18%, and on other building materials such as granite slabs, would reduce costs for the sector and be a big boost. Auto manufacturers said the reduction of GST on cars and non-luxury bikes from 28% to 18% would spur demand.

Which sectors voiced reservations?

The textile industry welcomed the downward revision of GST rates for both man-made fibre and cotton sectors to 5%, but also voiced its disappointment over the 18% duty for garments priced above ₹2,500 each. They said that woollens, wedding apparel, and traditional Indian wear would become more expensive.

While auto manufacturers welcomed the rate rationalisation, dealers voiced some worries about consumers postponing their purchases until September 22, when the new rates come into force. They also called for greater clarity on what happens to the cess on vehicles they have bought from manufacturers but not yet sold.

The insurance sector will likely also see a mixed picture from the GST rate cuts. The exemption of personal life and health insurance from GST will increase insurance penetration, but the simultaneous removal of input tax credits might increase costs for insurers, thereby eating into their profits.

Airlines have collectively slammed the higher GST on non-economy seats, while vegetable oil producers said the Council could have resolved the inverted duty structure on edible oils – something it did for fertilizers and man-made textiles. The increase in the GST rate for labour charges from 12% to 18% has also led to some resistance from representatives of the MSME sector, who said their costs would increase.

What is the revenue impact?

The Centre said the revenue implication would be ₹48,000 crore based on consumption patterns in 2023-24. However, the real impact will be ascertained only when new data is obtained. The SBI research team estimates it to be a much smaller ₹3,700 crore. Opposition States, however, are worried. They have voiced their demand for a cess to be levied on items in the 40% slab, the proceeds of which can be used to compensate States for the revenue hit. This was not accepted by the Council. The States will have to look for their own sources, and the 16th Finance Commission, to make up any losses.

Is a shift underway in India's foreign policy?

How productive was the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit? Did a meeting between China, Russia and India at Tianjin signal a change in relations? Did U.S. moves on tariffs and sanctions prompt this? What are the leaders saying?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began the week in Tianjin, with a show of camaraderie with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on September 1. A photograph of the three leaders together made headlines around the world. It also seemingly irked U.S. President Donald Trump, prompting a series of sarcastic statements, even as the U.S. doubled down on 50% tariffs, sanctions on India's import of Russian oil, and asking the European Union to do the same. By the end of the week, however, Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump appeared conciliatory.

What happened in Tianjin?

The week saw a series of high-level summits seen as a projection of power by China, beginning with the 10-nation SCO summit in Tianjin, where several other leaders including from Turkey, Nepal, Maldives, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Indonesia and Malaysia were invited. From there, the action moved to Beijing, where Mr. Xi led Mr. Putin and dozens of other leaders including North Korea's Kim Jong Un to a massive military parade commemorating 80 years since the end of the Second World War. The statements released included a number of counter-West elements, with Mr. Xi promoting a "Global Governance Initiative" and Mr. Modi pitching for a "civilisational dialogue" between SCO countries. The SCO declaration criticised "coercive, unilateral" economic measures, believed to be aimed at U.S. tariffs and European sanctions. During a photo-shoot for the SCO meet, Prime Minister Modi was seen purposefully leading President Putin down the red carpet to where President Xi was standing. A day before that, Mr. Xi and Mr. Modi held bilateral talks that had been cordial and possibly paved the way for the tri-leader photo.

India-U.S. relations have been impacted by months of tension, but official exchanges and military exercises have not stopped

A restructuring: PM Modi with Russian President Mr. Putin and China's President Mr. Xi ahead of the SCO summit in Tianjin, on September 1. REUTERS

What happened at the bilateral meeting?

This was Mr. Modi's first visit to China since 2018, and his first meeting with President Xi not in a third country since the military standoff and Galwan clashes in 2020, where both sides agreed to normalise ties. China appeared conciliatory, with Mr. Xi referring to India and China as "partners not rivals", while India appears to have climbed down from an insistence that the LAC situation be normalised before a resumption of ties in other spheres. They agreed to let the border situation be discussed between Special Representatives Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. Besides revival of flights, visa facilitation and the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, they agreed to resolve the trade issues between them.

How did the U.S. view the meetings?

In Washington, the photograph of the Tianjin "troika", as well as subsequent images of the leaders of Russia, China, North Korea, Central Asian states, Iran, Pakistan and others, were seen as a challenge to the Western order, as well as proof that India had now "switched sides".

On social media, Mr. Trump posted a photo from the SCO summit saying that it looked like the U.S. had "lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest, China". The White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro, seen as one of the officials driving tariffs against India, said it was a "shame" that India as a democracy was getting closer to Russia and China. There were a number of other comments criticising the Modi government, including calling the Ukraine conflict "Modi's war", which the Ministry of External Affairs rejected as "inaccurate and misleading". India will also participate in a BRICS online summit chaired by Brazil on September 8 to discuss a common response to the U.S. tariffs, which may send up more red flags.

Delhi-Washington ties have been fraught over many issues, including visa, immigration and trade policies, and Mr. Trump's repeated assertions of mediating the ceasefire in Operation Sindoor. But amid the tension, came yet another turnaround. Mr. Trump on Friday said that India and the U.S. have a "special relationship" and that he would "always be great friends with PM Modi". Mr. Modi, who had not responded to any of the statements thus far, welcomed them and said he shared Mr. Trump's "positive assessment" of the partnership.

What lies ahead?

While many foreign policy observers may have faced whiplash from the perception that Indian policy had shifted from the "west to the east" and possibly back to the west, the shifts are less perceptible if you consider India's decades-old policy of strategic autonomy and balance. The visit to China for the SCO had been expected for months, after the Xi-Modi meeting in Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in October 2024 had restarted ties. While India had put SCO on the backburner for the past two years and PM Modi skipped the Summit in Astana last year, the visit to China was considered important. In that sense, the Modi-Xi meeting was simply an attempt to normalise ties after years of serious tensions, and the Modi-Xi-Putin chat, would have been more significant if followed by a revival of formal Russia-India-China talks.

India-U.S. relations have no doubt been impacted by months of tensions on a range of issues, but official exchanges and military exercises have not stopped. Much will depend on whether the U.S. and India can find a compromise over demands to cancel Russian oil imports or for India to open its agricultural and dairy sectors, and whether the U.S. reconsiders its 50% tariff on India. With Mr. Jaishankar headed to the U.S. for the UN General Assembly this month, talks about scheduling the Quad summit, where Mr. Trump is due to visit India later this year, will be closely watched.

A flashpoint in the Palk Strait

Katchatheevu

Half a century since New Delhi gave up its claim to the barren island and recognised Sri Lanka's sovereignty over it, politicians in India periodically rake up the issue, triggering tensions in ties between the friendly countries

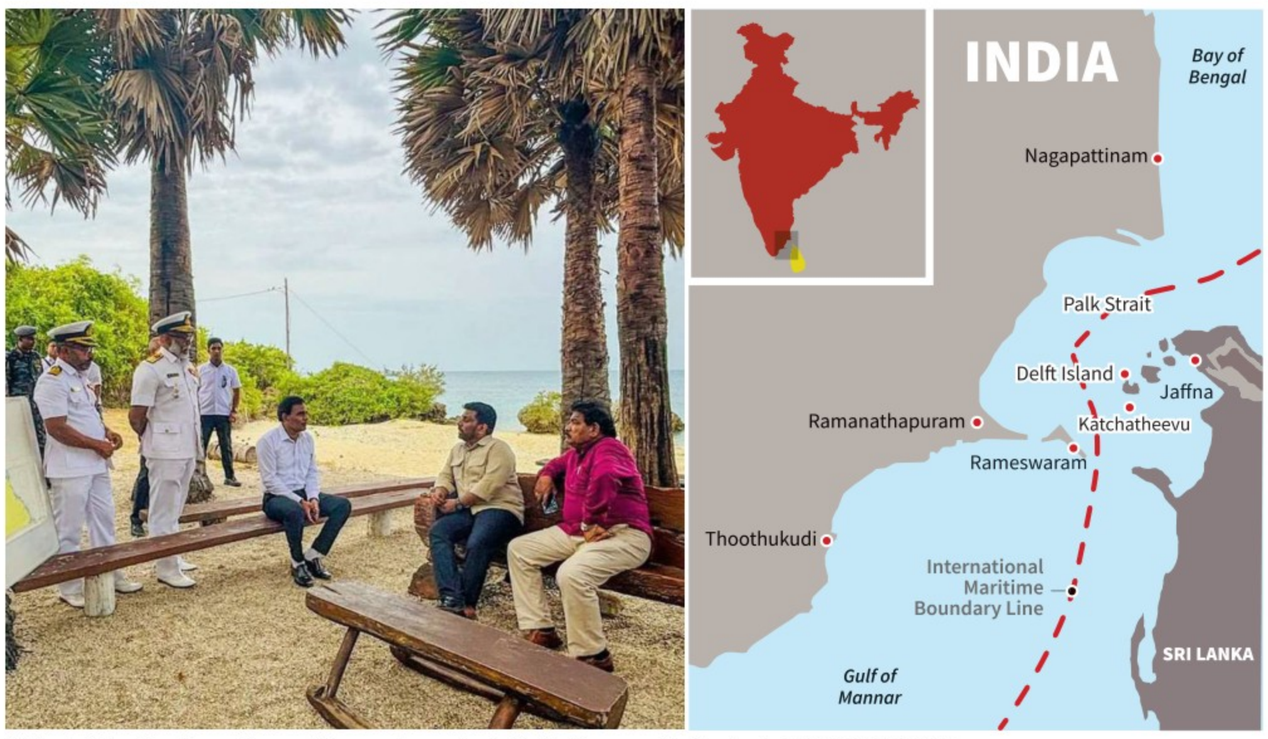
Meera Srinivasan

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's recent visit to Katchatheevu, said to be the first by a head of state, drew attention on both sides of the Palk Strait.

Attired in smart casuals – his trademark double-pocket shirt – the 56-year-old leftist leader, elected to office a year ago, is seen on a naval boat, flanked by Fisheries Minister and Jaffna MP Ramalingam Chandrasekar and other officials. He smiles gently before setting foot on the tiny, uninhabited island, 33 nautical miles off the Jaffna peninsula, on September 1. Seated in the shade of palm trees, Mr. Dissanayake listens intently while a Naval officer describes the 1.15 sq. km outcrop, pointing to a map.

Walking around briskly with officials in tow, Mr. Dissanayake pays respects at the St. Anthony's Catholic Shrine, the only permanent structure there, before returning to Jaffna, where at a public meeting earlier that day he pledged to safeguard Sri Lankan territory, resisting any "external force". The symbolism of the visit, with the accompanying visuals and messaging played well in Sri Lanka, comes days after Tamil actor-politician Vijay's demand in a political rally that India must retrieve Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka. The government subsequently announced it is also exploring the tourism potential of Katchatheevu, by making it more accessible from nearby Delft island, one of Jaffna's off-track tourist destinations.

The competing claims made from India [Madras Presidency, specifically] and Ceylon to Katchatheevu date back to the 1920s, during British colonial times. The neighbours settled the matter some five decades later, through two bilateral agreements signed in 1974 and 1976, delineating an International Maritime Boundary Line, whereby Katchatheevu is firmly on the Sri Lankan side. In return, New Delhi got sovereign rights over Wadge Bank, located near Kanniyakumari, known for its rich resources.



Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, centre, in Katchatheevu on September 1. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Katchatheevu is a barren island, with no drinking water or sanitation. Every March, Sri Lanka waives visa controls to allow fishermen from India to worship along with their Sri Lankan counterparts at the St. Anthony's festival. Around the annual two-day event, mobile toilets and drinking water booths are put up for pilgrims.

Political calculation

Bizarrely, though, half a century since India gave up its claim to Katchatheevu and recognised Sri Lanka's sovereignty over it, politicians in India periodically rake up the issue. The political calculation driving the frequent call is the assumption that it could boost voter support if pitched as a solution to the enduring fisheries conflict affecting Tamil Nadu's fishermen, a sizeable electoral constituency.

The fact that the Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) were in power, respectively at the Centre and in Tamil Nadu, in the 1970s has offered political ammunition to their rivals, especially on the eve of State polls next year. Ahead of general elections last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress of "callously giving away" the island to Sri Lanka. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar swiftly amplified this by blaming the two BJP rivals for compromising Indian fishermen's rights in the Palk Strait.

Both Dravidian parties [DMK and Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, or AIADMK], have demanded its retrieval. In 2008, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Jayalalithaa, as General Secretary of the AIADMK, petitioned the Supreme Court seeking a declaration that the 1974 and 1976 agreements were unconstitutional. Ahead of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sri Lanka in April 2025, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution, urging the Union government to take steps to retrieve the Katchatheevu island. Subsequently, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the island's retrieval was "the only permanent solution" to the issues faced by the fishermen in the State.

Everyone calling for the island's retrieval in India must know well that it is a far-fetched ask from a mostly friendly neighbour. In 2013, the Union government informed the Supreme Court that the question of gaining Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka did not arise, as "no territory belonging to India was ceded nor sovereignty relinquished since the area in question was in dispute and had never been demarcated". In 2014, then Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi submitted before the Supreme Court that if India had to retrieve an island belonging to Sri Lanka, "we have to go to war". The factors that keep the issue alive, despite diplomatic and legal resolution, are chiefly political, and in fact to do with the political economy of a depleting catch in a narrow stretch of water.

Fishermen of south India and northern Sri Lanka rely heavily on the resource-rich Palk Strait. However, with Tamil Nadu fishermen relentlessly resorting to bottom-trawling, a destructive fishing method that scoops out the seabed to maximise the catch and profits, this has severely affected the marine ecosystem. With the catch on the Indian side of the International Maritime Boundary Line diminishing over time, the Tamil Nadu fishing boats ventured into the Sri Lankan side, targeting a heavier net. Daily wage fishermen, working for wealthy boat owners in Tamil Nadu, periodically court arrest by the Sri Lankan Navy – over 230 arrests so far this year– a risk they take to secure their day's earnings.

Bottom-trawling

Tamil fishermen in northern Sri Lanka, still reeling from the impact of the civil war that ended 16 years ago, contend they have no real chance of rebuilding their destroyed livelihoods, unless their counterparts across the Palk Strait give up bottom-trawling – a practice banned in Sri Lanka.

In bilateral talks with fisher leaders through the years, or petitions to politicians in India and Sri Lanka, all they have been asking their fellow, Tamil-speaking brothers is that they stop the practice. In ministerial level talks between India and Sri Lanka in 2016, New Delhi acknowledged this and agreed to expedite the transition towards ending the practice of bottom trawling "at the earliest". But the practice continues.

Decades ago, fishermen from both sides used Katchatheevu as a resting point and a spot to dry out their nets. But in recent history, most arrests of Indian fishermen are made well past Katchatheevu, very close to Sri Lanka's northern shores. Policymakers on the Indian side know where the problem lies. And politicians know that Katchatheevu offers no real solution to it. But unwilling to confront a key electorate with a difficult question, they habitually invoke it to divert attention from their own failure to resolve the festering fisheries conflict.

THE GIST

- The competing claims made from India [Madras Presidency, specifically] and Ceylon to Katchatheevu date back to the 1920s, during British colonial times
- The neighbours settled the matter some five decades later, through two bilateral agreements signed in 1974 and 1976, delineating an International Maritime Boundary Line, whereby Katchatheevu is firmly on the Sri Lankan side
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Saffron guard

Rajendra Arlekar

The Kerala Governor, a former functionary of the BJP, faces criticism for 'saffronising' education and violating constitutional propriety

Sarath Babu George

When Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar assumed charge as the 23rd Governor of Kerala on January 2, 2025, few were surprised by what followed. A steadfast Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) loyalist and former Governor of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Arlekar's appointment was widely seen as a continuation, if not escalation, of the ideological and administrative friction that had marked the tenure of his predecessor, Arif Mohammed Khan.

A member of the RSS from a young age and later associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since 1989, Mr. Arlekar is a seasoned political leader from Goa. He served twice as a Member of the Goa Legislative Assembly. He held the post of Speaker from 2012 to 2015, and was Minister of Forest and Environment and Panchayati Raj from 2015 to 2017. He also led the BJP in the southwestern State for four years.

If Mr. Khan had redrawn the boundaries of gubernatorial conduct by repeatedly locking horns with the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, Mr. Arlekar has wasted no time in sharpening the same edges, particularly in the contentious domain of higher education.

Kerala's universities have long been battlegrounds for political influence. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]-led LDF and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) have traditionally dominated academic bodies. However, the BJP made significant inroads during Mr. Khan's tenure by securing entry into the Senates and Syndicates of major institutions such as Kerala and Calicut Universities.

Mr. Arlekar picked up where Mr. Khan left off in asserting the Governor's authority over State-run universities, and insisting that he holds the "final say" in higher education matters. His assertion, backed by University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines and some court verdicts, has clashed head-on with the LDF government's stance that State governments must retain control over publicly funded educational institutions. The impasse has led to a near-paralysis in university administration. Of the 14 State universities, 13 remain without regular Vice-Chancellors, with some positions lying vacant since October 2022. Interim appointments made by the Governor have often been met with non-cooperation from CPI (M)-dominated Syndicates.

Judicial intervention

The judiciary has often stepped in to break such deadlocks. The Supreme Court recently adopted crucial steps by appointing former Supreme Court judge Sudhanshu Dhulia to head the search-cum-selection committees for Vice-Chancellor appointments in APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University and Digital University Kerala.

Tensions between Raj Bhavan and the Kerala government have not been limited to education. Symbolism, too, has become a flashpoint. A portrait of 'Bharat Mata', depicted holding a saffron flag before a lion and the map of 'Akhand Bharat', has been prominently displayed during official functions at the Kerala Raj Bhavan, drawing sharp rebuke from both the LDF and the UDF.

Mr. Arlekar defended the image as a symbol of the nation. But the critics viewed its use, closely tied to RSS iconography, as an affront to constitutional propriety. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote formally to the Governor, warning against the display of politically or religiously charged imagery at State functions. Mr. Arlekar's ideological moorings run deep. A vocal admirer of Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, he is perceived as a key BJP emissary tasked with expanding the party's ideological footprint in a State long considered hostile to it.

Both the LDF and UDF accuse him of seeking to "saffronise" campuses under the pretext of reform.

At its core, the ongoing confrontation is a clash of two visions: one rooted in the federal autonomy of elected governments, and the other in a centralised, ideologically driven reimagination of institutions.

As the LDF government nears the end of its term, the Governor's withholding of assent to key Bills, including those seeking to reform university governance and allow private universities, has further strained the already brittle relationship.

In Mr. Arlekar, Kerala may have received a new Governor some months ago, but the old battles continue, perhaps with even sharper ideological stakes.

Activist behind bars

Umar Khalid

The former JNU student has been languishing in jail without trial and bail since 2020 for his alleged involvement in Delhi riots, a charge he denies vehemently

Ishita Mishra

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Whether it was writing a speech for his next rally or preparing pamphlets for an upcoming protest, Umar Khalid was always restless to do it all systematically and methodically. He probably never imagined that life would make him slow down in the most unprecedented way, by keeping him behind bars for years, say his friends.

A former student of modern history at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, Mr. Khalid was booked by police for being one of the key conspirators in the north-east Delhi riots that broke out in February 2020, amid countrywide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The riots had left 53 people dead and hundreds displaced. Arrested in September 2020, Mr. Khalid has been languishing inside the maximum security Tihar Jail since then.

No bail

Over the past five years, Mr. Khalid approached multiple courts, seeking bail, which the Supreme Court on several occasions has held as a 'rule' even applicable to offences under special statutes such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The 38-year-old, who pleaded not guilty for the crime he was accused of, says he only took part in peaceful protests related to the CAA, many of them were as far as 1,000 km from the national capital, where the riots took place.

Born to a mother who practised Unani medicine and a father who worked as an Urdu journalist, who later joined the Welfare Party of India, Umar Khalid is the eldest of six siblings. Raised in Jamia Nagar, a Muslim-majority locality in Delhi, he grew up questioning the way his community was treated.

"From a very tender age, he started noticing how his parents were worried of his security. It used to bother him how even when they can afford to stay in better areas of Delhi, they never moved out of Jamia Naagar, which is termed a Muslim ghetto," says Anirban Bhattacharya, Mr. Khalid's friend from JNU. "He was concerned about religious discrimination. After reaching JNU, he found that tribals and other downtrodden sections of society are also living the same life in India as him," he adds.

"Contesting claims and contingencies of the rule on Adivasis of Jharkhand," was the title of Mr. Khalid's PhD thesis. Associated with the Democratic Students Union (DSU), a far-left group, at JNU, he used to call himself a 'non-practising Muslim'.

Sedition charges

Mr. Bhattacharya and Mr. Khalid were charged for sedition in 2016 for organising a protest at the university over the hanging of Afzal Guru, a Kashmiri man convicted for his involvement in the 2001 Parliament attack. This was the same incident that brought fame to Kanhaiya Kumar, another JNU student leader, who is currently in the Congress.

Mr. Khalid also participated in protests in solidarity with Najeeb Ahmed, another JNU student, who went missing from his hostel on the university campus under suspicious circumstances on October 15, 2016. His whereabouts are still unknown. Mr. Khalid was booked for giving 'provocative' speeches during the Bhima Koregaon violence that left one dead and several injured.

"He became the victim of the injustice that he always fought against," says Banojyotsna Lahiri, Mr. Khalid's partner. She says she is in "disbelief" over his long incarnation, without a trial, in a democracy that he used to celebrate.

"The irony is that those who tried to kill him are out on bail and he, who was fighting for the rights of others, is languishing in jail," says Ms. Lahiri, an eyewitness of an attack on Mr. Khalid in 2018 outside the Constitution Club in Delhi. Police arrested two persons for the attack, who, in a video, claimed that "by attacking Khalid we wanted to give a gift to the people on the occasion of Independence Day".

Mr. Bhattacharya, who met Mr. Khalid days before the Delhi High Court, on September 3, refused him and nine others, bail in the conspiracy case pertaining to Delhi riots, recalls his words in which he shared how five years of confinement impacted him.

"The limited information flow behind the prison walls slows down your life as you are away from the mad rush of the outside world, which is accelerated by social media," Mr. Bhattacharya quoted him as saying. 'He doesn't get swayed by things happening on an everyday basis, any more," says Mr. Bhattacharya. "He knows he has to play a role."

BUDAPEST

Hungary police ban Pride parade amid LGBTQ crackdown by Orban

REUTERS

Hungarian police banned a Pride march set for next month but organisers insisted they would press ahead with holding the event. It came after Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government, which is pursuing a crackdown on LGBTQ rights, banned Budapest Pride in June — only for record numbers to defy the move. AFP

SEOUL

Seoul vows support to Koreans arrested in U.S. immigration raid

AFP

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung ordered all-out efforts on Saturday to respond to the arrests of over 300 of its citizens in a U.S. immigration raid on a Hyundai factory in Georgia. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said the government set up a team to respond and that he may go to Washington to meet with officials if needed. REUTERS

BELGRADE

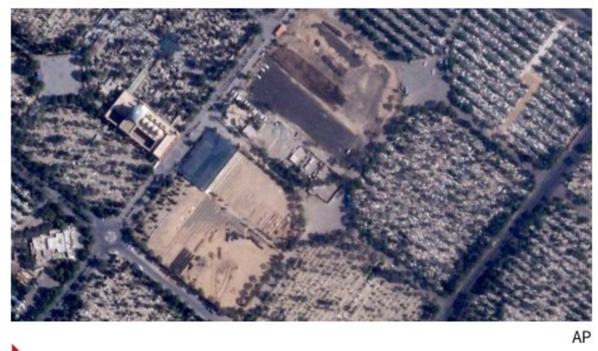
At least 42 detained following Serbia anti-government protest

AP

Forty-two people were detained at an anti-government protest in the Serbian city of Novi Sad where police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. Several thousand rallied in Novi Sad on Friday seeking early polls in the latest in a series of student-led protests sparked by the fatal collapse of the city's train station roof last November. AFP

DUBAI

Iran turns mass grave of 1979 revolution victims into parking lot



AP

A patch of sand and scrawny trees in the largest cemetery in Iran's capital was the final resting place for decades for some of the thousands killed in the mass executions that followed Iran's 1979 Revolution. Now, Lot 41 at the sprawling Behesht-e Zahra cemetery in Tehran is becoming a parking lot, satellite images showed. AFP

Israel asks famine-stricken Gaza City residents to flee as it targets high-rises

Aid groups have warned that a large-scale evacuation of Gaza City would exacerbate the dire humanitarian crisis; Israel declares Muwasi — a makeshift tent camp in southern Gaza — a humanitarian area and urges everyone in Gaza city to leave

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel's Army called on Saturday on Palestinians in Gaza City to move to a humanitarian area it designated in the south as it expanded its operations in preparation for seizing the famine-stricken city, including targeting high-rise buildings.

Aid groups have repeatedly warned that a large-scale evacuation of Gaza City would exacerbate the dire humanitarian situation, after the world's leading authority on food crises declared the city to be gripped by famine.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee wrote in X that the Army declared Muwasi – a makeshift tent camp in southern Gaza Strip – a humanitarian area and urged everyone in the city, which it called a Hamas stronghold and specified as a combat zone, to leave.

Stranded lot: A Palestinian child carries a pot of donated food from a community kitchen in Deir al-Balah in south Gaza on Saturday. AP

The military, in a statement, provided a map showing the area in Khan Younis that the humanitarian area encompasses, which includes the block where Nasser Hospital is located.

The area around the hospital has been considered a red zone, though not the medical facility itself. Last week, Israel struck the hospital, killing 22 people, including Mariam Dagga, a journalist. The hospital was not under evacuation.

UN staying back

The declaration of a so-called "humanitarian zone" in southern Gaza was done by the Israeli authorities unilaterally, and the UN and the wider humanitarian community are not part of that designation, said Olga Cherevko, a spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In a statement on Saturday, the UN said it is staying in Gaza City to provide aid and warned that the continued offensive will push people into an even deeper catastrophe.

Israel on Saturday issued warnings for two high-rises in Gaza City and the tents around them, saying Hamas had infrastructure inside or near them. It comes a day after after Israel struck another high-rise building in Gaza City, saying Hamas used it for surveillance, without providing evidence.

Thailand's next PM reaffirms promise of new elections

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Thailand's next Prime Minister on Saturday pledged to make good on his promise to lead the fractured interim government to new polls.

Conservative tycoon Anutin Charnvirakul was confirmed by parliament on Friday, ending a week-long power vacuum following the ouster of his predecessor Paetongtarn Shinawatra.

The construction magnate cobbled together a coalition of opposition blocs to shut out Pheu Thai, the electoral vehicle of the once-dominant Shinawatra dynasty's patriarch Thaksin.

Mr. Anutin received the backing of the People's Party, which holds a plurality of seats, on conditions that he recommitted to on Saturday.

Anutin Charnvirakul

"I think we are clear in terms of politics that we are going to dissolve the parliament in four months," he said during a meeting at his party headquarters broadcast by Thai media.

Mr. Thaksin unexpectedly left the kingdom before the parliamentary vote, bound for Dubai where he said he would visit friends and seek medical treatment.

The Supreme Court is due to rule on Tuesday in a case over a hospital stay following his return from exile in August 2023, a verdict some analysts say could see him jailed.

Bitter relationship

Mr. Anutin's right-wing Bhumjaithai party went into coalition with Pheu Thai in 2023, but pulled out in June over Ms. Paetongtarn's alleged misconduct in a leaked phone call with Cambodian ex-leader Hun Sen.

The Shinawatras have been a mainstay of Thai politics for the past two decades, sparring with the pro-monarchy, pro-military establishment that views them as a threat to the kingdom's traditional social order.

Venezuela's Maduro calls for talks after threat from Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro on Friday called for dialogue with Washington, hours after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to shoot down Venezuelan military jets if they pose a danger to U.S. forces.

Tensions between the two countries soared in recent days after the Pentagon accused Venezuela of buzzing its ships in the Caribbean following a deadly U.S. strike on an alleged Venezuelan drug boat.

"None of the differences we have and have had can lead to a military conflict," Mr. Maduro said in a message broadcast on all of Venezuela's radio and television networks.

"Venezuela has always been willing to talk, to engage in dialogue, but we demand respect," he added.

Nicolas Maduro

As tensions mount, Washington is deploying F-35 warplanes to Puerto Rico as part of Mr. Trump's war on drug cartels.

The 10 aircraft will join U.S. warships already present in the southern Caribbean as Mr. Trump steps up pressure on Maduro, whom the U.S. accuses of leading a drug cartel.

China condemns Australia, Canada ships in Taiwan Strait

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China says Canadian frigate *Quebec* and Australian destroyer *Brisbane* transited the Strait yesterday

China said on Saturday that its military monitored the passage of Australian and Canadian warships through the Taiwan Strait, criticising their presence in the sensitive waterway as "causing trouble".

Beijing views Taiwan as part of its territory and claims jurisdiction over the body of water that separates the self-ruled island from the Chinese mainland.

"On September 6, the Canadian frigate *Quebec* and the Australian destroyer *Brisbane* transited the Taiwan Strait, causing trouble and provoking," said Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesperson for the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

The PLA "organised naval and air forces to monitor and supervise their entire transits, effectively responding and handling the situation", Mr. Shi said in a statement.

"The actions of Canada and Australia send the wrong signals and increase security risks," he added.

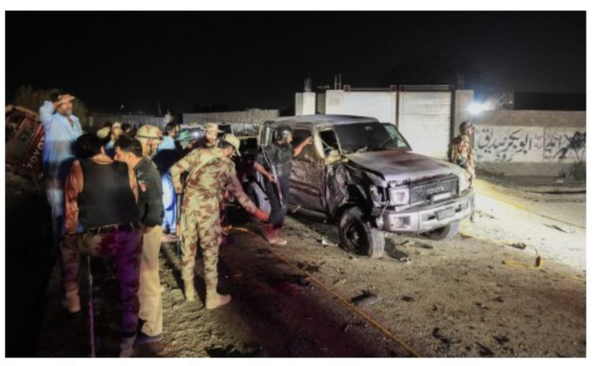
"(Chinese) troops remain on high alert at all times, resolutely safeguarding national sovereignty and security and regional peace and stability."

China has not ruled out the use of force to take control of democratic Taiwan.

Imran Khan slams Pakistan Army chief for 'inflicting oppression' to prolong rule

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday launched a fresh attack on Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, accusing him of "inflicting oppression" on the people to prolong his rule. The patron-in-chief of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has accused Mr. Munir of imposing an undeclared martial law, installing a puppet government under Shehbaz Sharif by stealing people's mandate in last February's election, and committing atrocities against his party workers.



Imran Khan also condemned the bomb blast at a rally in Balochistan in which at least 15 people were killed this week. AFP

"Today Asim Munir is inflicting oppression on the people of Pakistan to prolong his own rule, thus weakening the country," Mr. Khan said. The 72-year-old cricketer-turned politician has been in jail for over two years in multiple cases. "Those (Munir and company) who have stolen the people's mandate are gripped by fear. It is because of this fear that oppression against us is increasing," he said.

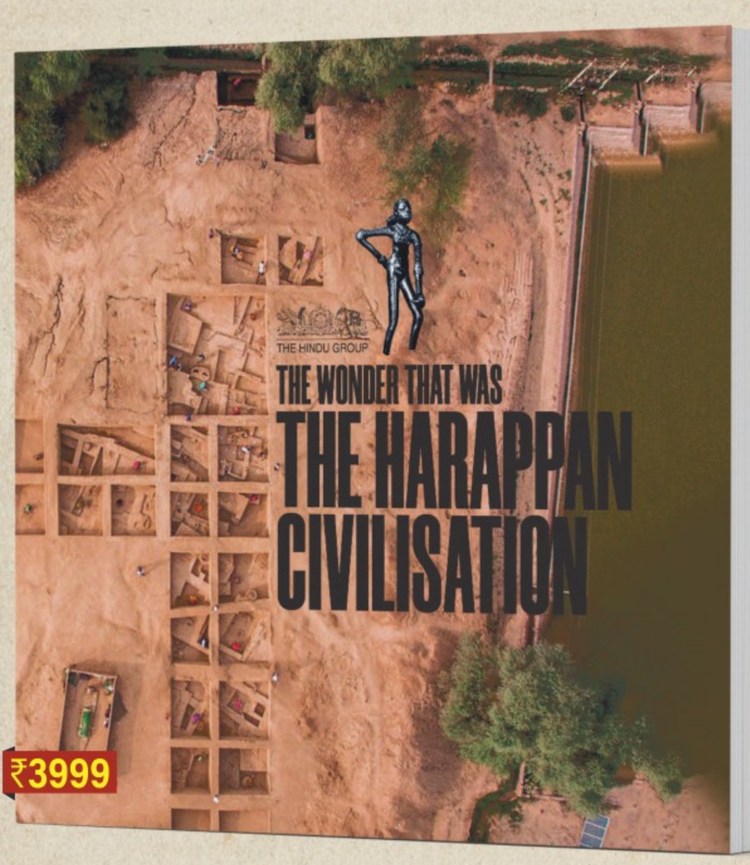
Mr. Khan also strongly condemned the bomb blast at a rally in Balochistan held in connection with the death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal, in which at least 15 people were killed this week. The situation in Balochistan is worsening by the day because elected representatives are not allowed to govern," he said.

NEW ARRIVAL

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu marks the centenary of the announcement of the discovery of the Indus Civilisation with a new edition of the book 'The Wonder that was the Harappan Civilisation'. The book has a bonanza of photographs and 48 extra pages, featuring interviews with Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, Y S Rawat, scholars R S Bisht and Asko Parpola. There are new stories on the excavations at Karanpura and Padka Bet, both Harappan sites in India. A treasure to own.



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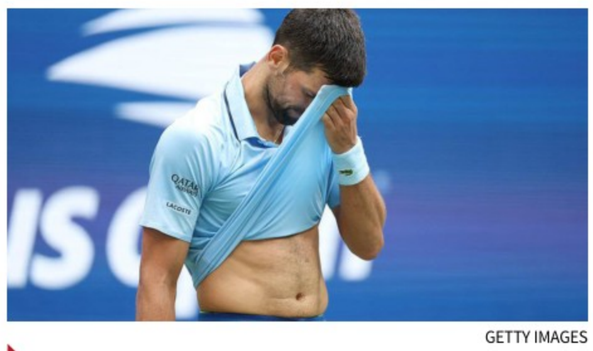
HARSH REALITY

Can't physically match Alcaraz and Sinner, admits Djokovic



GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic admitted he was no longer physically capable of matching Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. "I'm happy with my level of tennis, but you know, it's just the physicality of it. That's something I, unfortunately at this point in time in my career, can't control," he said after the US Open semifinal loss to Alcaraz.

FIGHTING STRONG

Veteran Djokovic 'not giving up' on competing in Grand Slams

REUTERS

I'm not giving up on Grand Slams, I'm going to continue fighting. I still want to play a full Grand Slam season next year. They are just different from any other tournament. They are the pillars of our sport... I think I have a better chance in best-of-three, but best-of-five, it's tough — Novak Djokovic.

SPECIAL OCCASION

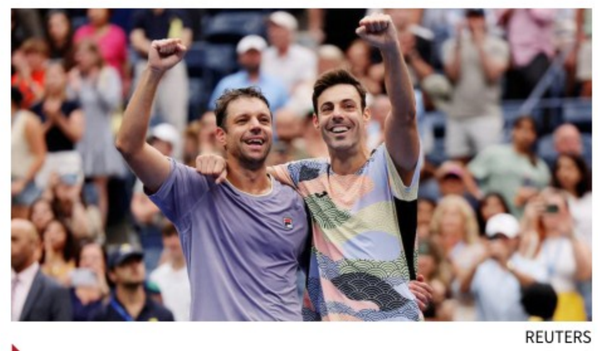
Five Grand Slam finals is great: Sinner ahead of title clash

GETTY IMAGES

Jannik Sinner expects another "special" occasion when he plays Carlos Alcaraz for the men's US Open title after he reached his fifth successive Grand Slam final on Friday. "Five straight Grand Slam finals, is something great. I never thought, I would make this when I turned pro, and now I find myself here." said Sinner.

MAJOR WIN

Granollers-Zeballos duo lands US Open men's doubles crown



REUTERS

Spain's Marcel Granollers, *right in pic,* and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina, the fifth seeds, beat the sixth-seeded British duo of Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 3-6, 7-6(4), 7-5 to win the US Open men's doubles title on Saturday. It was the second Slam of the year for the two after they beat the same opponents in the French Open final.

Seven-star India dismantles China, takes on Korea in the summit clash

The victor will seal a spot in next year's World Cup; heartbreak for the Malaysians as they let slip away a two-goal advantage

ASIA CUP

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Tricky, tough, tense. India's last Super 4s game at the Asia Cup here against China was expected to be all of this and more.

Instead, it was a masterclass in what the Indian team was capable of when it got its mind to it as the host ran roughshod for a 7-0 victory to storm into the final and a step closer to a World Cup spot on Saturday.

The three-time champion will now take on five-time winner Korea in the final after the holder rallied to stun Malaysia 4-3 in the other Super 4s game.

If China had any hopes of causing an upset or running India close, it was in for a reality check.

India looked like a team on a mission. It started on a blistering pace and kept the tempo up through the first 30 minutes to not just rattle its rival but also leave it gasping as the impressive Chinese defence that had held strong so far in the competition dismantled in quick time.

The speed was accompanied by domination of both possession and space. So much so that for the first two quarters, China barely had an entry into the Indian circle or a look-in at the goal. Every attempt to find space resulted in a turnover that saw India threatening to score.

Harmanpreet Singh was stationed at halfway line, Jarmanpreet and Amit Rohidas assisting on the flanks and Sanjay even coming close to scoring. Shilanand Lakra deflected in a Jarmanpreet pass in the fourth minute after a couple of close calls. Abhishek, back on striking duty after playing in a withdrawn role in the previous game, constantly threatened.

Hardik and Rajinder marshalled the midfield and Sumit and Manpreet, running the length and

Running riot: Dilpreet, centre, and teammates are ecstatic after making it 2-0. R.V. MOORTHY

breadth of the field, were tireless and kept running circles around the Chinese midfield and defence.

A penalty corner each in the first two quarters were both saved by the Chinese rusher, only to see the rebounds slammed in, first by Dilpreet at the near post and then by Mandeep, positioned on the goal-line to push in Vivek's shot, to be 3-0 up inside the first 20 minutes. Post the break, the frenetic pace was replaced by a more controlled tempo but equally dominant. The Chinese edged ahead cautiously, knowing they had to get into the game, but left gaps at the back to concede four more. If the first half was about speed, the second was about asserting superiority. The numbers say it all: India had 19 circle entries and 13 shots at goal to four and one respectively for China. China's biggest weapon was nullified by not conceding a single PC.

Korea, meanwhile, came back from two goals down to reach its seventh tournament final. Trailing 3-1, Korea struck thrice in eight minutes to stun Malaysia, which scrambled for an equaliser but could not find a way past goalkeeper Jaehan Kim.

The results: Super 4s: India 7 (Shilanand Lakra 4, Dilpreet Singh 7, Mandeep Singh 18, Rajkumar Pal 37, Sukhjeet Singh 39, Abhishek 46, 50) bt China 0; Korea 4 (Hyeonhong Kim 24, 51, Seyong Oh 44, Jungjun Lee 50) bt Malaysia 3 (Fitri Saari 9, Aiman Rozemi 29, Syed Cholan 31).

7-8: Kazakhstan 6 (Agymtay Duisengazy 12, 23, 30, 36, 56, Altynbek Aitkaliyev 47) bt Taiwan 4 (Tsung-Yu Hsieh 13, 18, 31, Yu-Cheng Chang 7).

In the nick of time: India earned a point by striking from a penalty corner seconds before the final hooter. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

India holds defending champion Japan

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

Navneet Kaur struck from a penalty corner seconds before the final hooter as India, ranked 10th, came from behind twice to hold defending champion and higher-ranked Japan (12th) to a 2-2 draw in its second pool match of the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Saturday.

Pulsating encounter

In a pulsating Pool-B match, Hiroka Murayama gave Japan the lead in the 10th minute before Rutaja Dadaso Pisal equalised in the 30th minute.

Chiko Fujibayashi again put Japan ahead in the 58th minute only to see Navneet restore the parity in the 60th minute.

Final pool match

India, which thrashed Thailand 11-0 in its opening match, will play Singapore in its final pool match on Monday.

The Indians have come into the tournament without the injured duo of veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia and ace drag-flicker Deepika.

The winner will qualify for the 2026 World Cup to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The result:
India 2 (Rutaja 30, Navneet 60) drew with Japan 2 (Hiroka 10, Chiko 58).

Khajuria's ton keeps North afloat; Central all but through to final

DULEEP TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Shubham Khajuria (128 batting, 245b, 20x4, 1x6) displayed dogged resilience even as North Zone suffered a late blip in its Duleep Trophy semifinal against South Zone at the BCCI CoE Ground (1) here on Friday.

Opener Khajuria gave his side hope, in the face of South Zone's mammoth 536 total. The Jammu and Kashmir opener batted through the day to guide his side to 278 for five.

Picture of concentration: Opener Khajuria held the North innings together. K. MURALI KUMAR

Crucial stand: Upendra and Harsh helped Central gain the first-innings lead against West. K. MURALI KUMAR

Late jolts

The task ahead for North Zone on the final day could have been a lot easier, if not for the loss of two late wickets.

After providing able support to Khajuria in a 171-run fourth-wicket stand, Nishant Sindhu (82, 148b, 9x4, 1x6) fell with less than half an hour to go for close of play.

Sindhu paid the price for a rash stroke, attempting an uppercut off pacer Gurjapneet Singh which landed in the hands of deep third-man.

Two overs later, South Zone was right back in it, when sharp fielding from captain Mohammed Azharuddeen caught Kanhaiya Wadhawan short of the crease. From a comfortable 272 for three, North Zone slipped to a nervy 272 for five. The visitor, which needs 258 runs to erase the innings deficit, will take comfort in the presence of the steady Khajuria.

There was an injury scare for South's Salman Nizar, who was struck on the leg when fielding at silly point. Salman was carried off the ground

by two teammates, as the medical personnel could not be found.

He was then taken in an ambulance for treatment, and returned to the ground late in the day.

In the adjacent BCCI CoE Ground (2), Central Zone overhauled West Zone's 438-run first-innings total.

Overnight batters Shubham Sharma (96) and Rajat Patidar (77) started well, but the bulk of the heavy lifting was done by Upendra Yadav (87, 181b, 8x4, 2x4) and Harsh Dubey (75, 93b, 13x4). The duo came together with Central in a tricky spot at 322 for five, and took the team to safety with a 134-run sixth-wicket partnership.

Barring a miracle, Central – sitting on a lead of 118 runs – is sure to reach the final.

The scores:
At BCCI CoE Ground (1): South Zone 536 vs North Zone 278/5 in 79 overs (Shubham Khajuria 128 batting, Ayush Badoni 40, Nishant Sindhu 82, Gurjapneet Singh 3/67).
At BCCI CoE Ground (2): West Zone 438 vs Central Zone 556/8 in 157 overs (Ayush Pandey 40, Danish Malewar 76, Shubham Sharma 96, Rajat Patidar 77, Upendra Yadav 87, Harsh Dubey 75, Saransh Jain 37 batting, Deepak Chahar 33, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/101).

It's Alcaraz versus Sinner again!

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Carlos Alcaraz overpowered Novak Djokovic in straight sets on Friday and will meet defending champion Jannik Sinner in a blockbuster US Open final showdown.

Spanish second seed Alcaraz produced a ruthlessly efficient display to end Djokovic's latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title, winning 6-4, 7-6(4), 6-2 in two hours and 23 minutes.

Alcaraz was then followed into the final by arch-rival and World No. 1 Sinner, who was forced to work hard by Canadian 25th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime before wrapping up a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

Third final in a row

It means that Alcaraz and Sinner will collide in a third consecutive Grand Slam final this year on Sunday, where US President Donald Trump will be among a 23,000 crowd to watch the latest instalment of the gripping "Sincaraz" rivalry.

Alcaraz won the duo's epic five-hour 29-minute tussle at the French Open in June before Sinner dethroned the Spaniard in the final at Wimbledon the following month.

Alcaraz's victory over Djokovic suggested though that he is more than capable of ambushing Sinner in a match where the winner will be assured of the World No. 1 ranking on Monday.

In red-hot form: Alcaraz chased down almost everything Djokovic threw at him and crushed the Serb in straight sets. GETTY IMAGES

The 22-year-old five-time Grand Slam winner has not dropped a set en route the final but still believes he has room for improvement.

"Beating Novak is always special. But I don't feel like I've won anything more than a Grand Slam semifinal," Alcaraz said after downing the 38-year-old Djokovic. "It was an important match, but it was just a ticket to the final."

Sinner, meanwhile, appeared to be readying another quickfire win as he sprinted through the opening set of his clash with the rangy Auger-Aliassime.

But the Canadian levelled by taking the second set only for Sinner to respond to claim the next two and a return to the final.

Sinner's distinction

Sinner, who also won the Australian Open in January, is now only the fourth man in history to reach the finals of all four Grand Slams in a single season, joining an exclusive club whose other members are Rod Laver, Roger Federer and Djokovic.

"It's been an amazing season. The Grand Slams are the most important tournaments we have throughout the year," Sinner said.

The Italian's date with Alcaraz is also a rematch of their famous 2022 US Open quarterfinal five-setter, which finished around 2.50 am local time and remains the latest finish in tournament history.

"Sunday is a very special day and an amazing final again. I feel like our rivalry started here playing an amazing match," Sinner said in a nod to their 2022 classic. We are two different players now, with different confidence too. Let's see what's coming. We've played each other a lot, we know each other very well".

The results: Men:
Semifinals: 2-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 7-Djokovic (Srb) 6-4, 7-6(4), 6-2; 1-Sinner (Ita) bt 25-Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

INBRIEF

Verstappen claims pole position at Monza

Max Verstappen took pole position for the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on Saturday.

Qualifying results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull); 2. Norris (McLaren); 3. Piastri (McLaren); 4. Leclerc (Ferrari); 5. Hamilton (Ferrari); 6. Russell (Mercedes); 7. Antonelli (Mercedes); 8. Bortoleto (Sauber); 9. Alonso (Aston Martin); 10. Tsunoda (Red Bull); 11. Bearman (Haas); 12. Hulkenberg (Sauber); 13. Sainz (Williams); 14. Albon (Williams); 15. Ocon (Haas); 16. Hadjar (Racing Bulls); 17. Stroll (Aston Martin); 18. Colapinto (Alpine); 19. Gasly (Alpine); 20. Lawson (Racing Bulls).

Niki wins doubles title in Shanghai Challenger

Niki Poonacha and Pruchya Isaro of Thailand defeated Jason Jung and Reese Stalder 6-4, 6-7(2), [10-8] in the doubles final of the $160,000 Challenger tennis in Shanghai on Saturday.

Vaishali jumps into the lead, Gukesh scores over Yuffa

R. Vaishali beat Olga Badelka in round three to take the lead in the women's section of the FIDE Grand Swiss in Samarkand. In the open section, D. Gukesh crushed Spain's Daniil Yuffa and R. Praggnanandhaa beat Boris Gelfand.

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Men's Asia Cup, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 2.30, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
England vs South Africa: 3rd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Zimbabwe vs Sri Lanka: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5 p.m.
Formula One: Italian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
T20I tri-series: Afghanistan vs Pakistan (final), FanCode, 8.30 p.m.
US Open: Men's final, Star Sports 1, SS Select & JioHotstar, 11.30 p.m.

Hima Teja, Aman Rao propel Hyderabad

The two batters remain at ease against pace and spin while adding 85 for the third wicket; the former misses a century by a whisker

BUCHI BABU

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

What could have been a special 24th birthday for Hima Teja turned into a slight disappointment at the fag end of the opening day of the Buchi Babu tournament final at the CSK-High Performance Centre here on Saturday.

Great composure
The Hyderabad batter showed great composure to get within three runs of what would have been a fine century against TNCA President's XI before a rush of blood to reach the landmark on his special day cost him his wicket.

Nonetheless, his superb 97 (221b, 13x4, 1x6) ensured defending champion Hyderabad finished on 296 for five at stumps against the TN side.

Electing to bat, Hyderabad got off to a good start, thanks to opener Aman Rao's free-flowing 85 of just 95 balls that included 11 boundaries and four maximums.

Delightful knock
On a good batting surface, Aman played some delightful strokes against the TN pacers H. Trilok Nag and C.V. Achyuth.

His knock was filled with pleasing drives through covers, and when the pacers pitched short, he pulled them over leg-side for maximums.

But immediately after lunch, Aman was caught at first slip when he tried an expansive drive off Trilok Nag, who was the pick of the TN bowlers with figures of three for 59.

Oozing class: Hima Teja put on a clinic on how to play spin. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

> This game is all about patience. You have to grind out tough phases. I could have stayed longer, but I was in a rush to get to the hundred because it was my birthday
> **HIMA TEJA**

Hima Teja, at the other end, then held the innings together. He was nimble on his feet against the spinners, using the depth of the crease to cut while also stepping out to drive down the ground.

In the final session of the day, Hima Teja stepped up the scoring alongside Varun Goud as the duo added 90 for the fifth wicket.

However, in the 88th over, Hima Teja charged at J. Hemchudeshan, but was foxed by a sharp off-break and was stumped.

The scores:
Hyderabad 296/5 in 90 overs (Aman Rao 85, Hima Teja 97, Varun Goud 45 batting) vs TNCA President's XI.
Toss: Hyderabad.

Shreyas Iyer. K. MURALI KUMAR

Shreyas to lead India-A

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Shreyas Iyer was on Saturday entrusted with job of leading the India-A team in the two unofficial four-day games against Australia-A in Lucknow from September 16-26.

K.L. Rahul and Mohammed Siraj will be available for the second fixture.

Shreyas is currently turning out for West Zone in the Duleep Trophy semi-final against Central Zone in Bengaluru.

Dhruv Jurel has been named Shreyas' deputy.

The squad:
Shreyas Iyer (Capt.), Abhimanyu Easwaran, N. Jagadeesan (wk), Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel (Vice-capt. & wk), Devdutt Padikkal, Harsh Dubey, Ayush Badoni, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Khaleel Ahmed, Manav Suthar, and Yash Thakur.

Nikhat punches her way into the pre-quarterfinals

BOXING

Sports Bureau

Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) experienced contrasting fortunes on their return to international boxing after a year with the former registering an impressive win while the latter lost her opener at the World boxing championships in Liverpool on Saturday.

Two-time World champion Nikhat posted a comprehensive 5-0 victory over younger Olympian Jennifer Lozano of the USA to set a pre-quarterfinal date with Turkey's double Olympic silver medallist Cakiroglu Busenaz.

Nikhat gauged her opponent well before delivering clean combinations from a long range to take the first round.

Even as Jennifer tried closing the gap in order to catch up, Nikhat relied on her excellent footwork and accuracy to keep the American at bay.

Nikhat was in complete control as she executed her counters, including the effective right hook, while maintaining a safe distance in the third and final round.

Lovlina, who got a bye for her Paris Olympics quarterfinal appearance, lost 0-5 to Turkey's European medallist Busra Isildar.

In a scrappy affair, Busra gained early ground through her powerful shots. Lovlina made a comeback by finding the target from a distance before the Turkish boxer prevailed because of her cleaner punches.

Hitesh (70kg), who also got a bye, put up a superb fight before being ousted by Finn Robert Bos with a 1-4 verdict.

A lusty right from Bos in the third round grounded Hitesh and earned the Dutchman a decisive advantage.

On Friday night, after Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) defeated Ukrainian Daria-Olha Hutarina 5-0, Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal (+90kg) beat Ireland's Martin McDonagh 4-1 to set up a last-16 clash with Italian Olympian Diego Lenzi.

BCCI to elect president during AGM on Sept. 28

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The BCCI will elect its new President and the next IPL Chairman at the Annual General Meeting here on September 28.

The post of the BCCI's president fell vacant following the exit of Roger Binny as the cricketing body's constitution does not allow any official to hold a post beyond 70.

IPL chairman Arun Dhumal is also likely to go for a mandatory cool-off period.

The BCCI ombudsman, ethics officer and the board's representative on the ICC will be appointed.

Zimbabwe levels series

Agence France-Presse
HARARE

Zimbabwe beat Sri Lanka by five wickets in the second T20I to level the series 1-1 on Saturday.

The scores: Sri Lanka 80 in 17.4 overs (Raza 3/11, Evans 3/15) lost to Zimbabwe 84/5 in 14.2 overs (Chameera 3/19); **Toss:** Zimbabwe. **PoM:** Raza.

Bulls and Giants taste first success

PKL

Sports Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Bengaluru Bulls opened its tally in Pro Kabaddi League Season 12, beating Patna Pirates 38-30 on Saturday. Alireza Mirzaian came up with a Super 10 and was well supported by Aashish Malik (8). Bulls had suffered three straight losses. Raider Ayan Lohchab, who also scored a Super 10 for Pirates, gave Pirates the edge after a slow start.

However, the Bengaluru outfit mounted a comeback and went on to win.

In the other match, Gujarat Giants sealed its first win of the season with a 37-28 victory over Tamil Thalaivas. Nitin Panwar, Rakesh and Mohammadreza Shadloui shone for Giants.

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File No. HO/Civil/T&E-E-5264/01/2025/25558 Dt.26.08.2025
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL)-II, IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST-14/2025-26
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Proposed Swimming Pool at Nuapada District Headquarter
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1507.64/- Lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding
   i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.10.09.2025
   ii. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.24.09.2025
   iii. Opening date : 17:30 Hours of dt.24.09.2025.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in e-procurement portal as well as in IDCO website.
CAD-1655: Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil)-II, IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-14003/11/0231/2526

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com
Bid Identification No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-12 No : 2462, Dated : 01.09.2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for 01 (One) group of road works under Periodical renewal work of five year completed PMGSY (Post DLP) roads under state budget grant for financial year 2025-26.

1. Name of work : Periodical renewal work of five year completed PMGSY (Post DLP) roads under state budget grant for financial year 2025-26.
2. No of works : 01 (One) group Details as per DTCN
3. Estimated Cost : Approximately Rs.176.91 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'A'
5. Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit : Rs.10,000/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour of concerned Executive Engineer / Superintending Engineer
6. Mode of submission of tender : Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in .(https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
7. EMD and mode of deposit : 1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN.

8. Summary of Key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	Road Tender Online-RWCSBP-12/2025-26	08.09.2025 at 11.00.A.M.	22.09.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	19.09.2025 up to 5.00.P.M.	23.09.2025 at 11.00.A.M.	To be intimated later

* Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
* Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/Addendum if required shall appear in website only.
* The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST.
* Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.
* The authority reserves all rights to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
O-694 :
OIPR-25091/11/0076/2526

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT
Website: www.kride.in | Email ID: gmprocurement@kride.in
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.: KRIDE/VEHICLESERVICE/2025 Date: 05.09.2025.
"Providing Vehicles with skilled and professional drivers for the Officials of K - RIDE"
Last date for submission of bid is 06.10.2025 IST 15:00 Hrs.
For details visit https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE
DIPR/CP/2667/Zen/2025-26
KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU.
No:SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/MS/03/2025-26, Date : 06.09.2025
Tender Notification
e-Tenders is invited from interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for Supply of Drugs to Affiliated hospitals of SABVMCRI.
1) The starting date for downloading tender : 06.09.2025 onwards. 2) The last date for clarifications on tender : 23.09.2025, upto 5.30 P M. 3) The last date for uploading the tender : 06.10.2025 up to 5.30 PM. 4) Date of Submission of Samples : Till last of date of the Tender Submission sample will receive from 09.30am to 4.00 pm to Main Stores. Without Samples items will not be considered. 5) Opening of Tenders (Single Cover) : 08.10.2025 at 10.30 A M.
For more details pertaining to this tender, contact the Director and Dean/ Assistant Administrator of the Institute during office hours.
Sd/- Director and Dean, SABVMCRI Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/2668/Zen/2025-26

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only))
BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT547 through KPP portal from eligible bidders for "Replacement of 184 Nos. of Existing AC-001 type EV Chargers of Magenta and EVRE make with New AC-001 type EV chargers at BESCOM under Buy-Back mode.
Bid documents will be available from 15.09.2025 at 11.00 a.m. onwards.
The Bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPP portal helpdesk at 9240214000, 9240214001.
Sd/-
General Manager (Elec),
DSM, Electrical Vehicle Cell, Block-2,
1st Floor, Corporate Office, BESCOM,
K. R. Cricle, Bangalore - 560 001.
For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

By E_Mail/e-Despatch: E_Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in; Ph-No-06782/260318, Balia,Balasore
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
"e" - Procurement Notice for Bridge Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No.26 of 2025-26
Letter No: - 3012 / WE Date. 26/08/2025

1. Name of the Work : Bridge Works
2. Total No. of Work : As per annexure
3. Estimated Cost : As per annexure
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure
6. Other Details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Balasore Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.	NCB No.26 of 2025-26	08.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	22.09.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	20.09.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	23.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in
O-680: S/d- Er.Durjyodhan Behera, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Balasore.
OIPR-25105/11/0075/2526

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
(A Statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sijua, Post-Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -751019
File no. RECT-11014/1/2025-RECU SEC (I/18564/2025) Date: 04.09.2025
VACANCY NOTICE
ADVT NO. DEPUTATION/01/2025
Applications are being invited for the various posts on deputation basis at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
For full details regarding the departments, essential educational qualification, eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions, please visit the institute website https://aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Group	Pay Scale as per 7th CPC	Vacancy
1.	Medical Superintendent	A	Level 14+NPA	1
2.	Chief Librarian	A	Level 13	1
3.	Librarian Selection Grade (Senior Librarian)	A	Level 11	1
4.	Senior Analyst (System Analyst)	A	Level 12	1
5.	Chief Nursing Officer	A	Level 12	1
6.	Executive Engineer (AC & R)	A	Level 11	1
7.	Nursing Superintendent	A	Level 11	3
8.	Senior Administrative Officer	A	Level 11	1
9.	Senior Procurement Cum Store Officer	A	Level 11	1
10.	Chief Dietician	A	Level 11	1
11.	Chief Medical Social Service Officer	A	Level 11	1
12.	CSSD Officer	A	Level 11	1
13.	Chief Medical Record Officer	A	Level 10	1
14.	Medical Record Officer	B	Level 6	4
15.	Chief Pharmacist	B	Level 7	11
16.	Sr. Pharmacist	B	Level 6	3
17.	Pharmacist Grade I	B	Level 6	11
18.	Manager/Supervisor/ Gas Officer	B	Level 7	1
19.	Private Secretary	B	Level 7	3
20.	Junior Administrative Officer	B	Level 6	9
21.	Senior Administrative Assistant (UDC)	C	Level 4	3
22.	Senior Sanitation Officer	B	Level 7	1
23.	Sanitation Officer	B	Level 6	3
	Total			64

Sd/-
Administrative Officer
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

Venkatesh's stellar five-for derails Gujarat

The pacer runs riot as the visitors reach 195 for seven following on, still needing 40 runs to make KSCA Secretary's XI bat again

CRICKET

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

KSCA Secretary's XI inched closer to victory, skittling out Gujarat for 138 in the first innings and then reducing the visitors to 195 for seven in the second (following on) on the third and penultimate day of their KSCA Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial cricket tournament encounter at the Kini Sports Arena here on Saturday.

Gujarat started the day from an overnight 73 for five but speedster M. Venkatesh scalped five wickets (5/53) in the first essay, including the last four batters.

By the time rain stopped play, Gujarat had lost seven wickets in the second innings too, with 40 runs still required to make the Secretary's XI bat again.

Prolific: Venkatesh put KSCA Secretary's XI on the cusp of victory. FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The scores: Assam 206 in 49.2 overs & 103/4 in 28.4 overs (Riyan Parag 57 batting) vs. Mumbai 407 in 99.1 overs (Musheer Khan 41, Akhil Herwadkar 54, Ajinkya Rahane 66, Suryansh Shedge 59, Aakash Anand 69).

KSCA Secretary's XI 373 in 149.4 overs vs. Gujarat 138 in 39.2 overs (M. Venkatesh 5/53) & 195/7 in 53.3 overs (Abhishek Desai 47, Umang Kumar 73).

Goa 211 in 62.2 overs & 240 in 76.3 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 51, Abhinav Tejrana 47) vs. Vidarbha 208 in 61.2 overs (Atharva Taide 50, Darshan Nalkande 55) & 115/0 in 28 overs.

KSCA President's XI 250 in 91.5 overs vs. Maharashtra 293/5 in 83 overs (Anirudha Sabale 43, Digvijay Patil 68, Mandar Bhandari 60, Mizaan Sayyed 71 batting).

Madhya Pradesh 346 in 124.3 overs (Arshad 102) vs. Tripura 237/5 in 72 overs (Bikram Kumar Das 53, Hanuma Vihari 56, Vijay Shankar 68 batting).

Chhattisgarh 274 in 90.5 overs & 121/3 in 41 overs (Ashutosh Singh 42) vs. KSCA XI 250 in 78.3 overs (R. Smaran 47, Shreyas Gopal 60, Sourabh Majumdar 4/60).

In Mysuru:

KSCA Colts 140 in 41 overs & 203 in 46.1 overs (Aneeshwar Gautam 56, Mohsin Khan 46, Vipin Sharma 5/55) vs. Himachal Pradesh 303 in 91.1 overs & 41/0 in 6.4 overs.

Andhra 257 in 83.5 overs & 20/2 in 13 overs vs. Baroda 424/9 decl. in 152.5 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 50, Sukrit Pandey 156 n.o., Ninad Rathwa 62, Mitesh Patel 42, Mahesh Pithiya 48, KSN Raju 4/75).

Rahil extends championship lead

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Notching up his third win in five starts in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open class, Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) extended his championship lead in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National Motorcycle Racing Championship at Madras International Circuit on Saturday.

Wrapping it up: Rahil leads the pack en route victory in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open class. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (winners only): National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-1): 1. Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) (11 mins, 02.255secs). **Pro-Stock 200cc Open (Race-1):** 1. Venkatesh Iyyappan (Rookies Racing) (11:52.417). **Stock 301-400cc (Novice) (Race-1):** 1. Mohamed Mikhail (Mad Rabbit Racing) (12:07.009). **Super Stock 165cc Intermediate (Race-1):** 1. Raj Kumar (Motul Sparks Racing) (12:50.703). **Stock 165cc (Novice) (Race-1):** 1. Rajender Beedani (MAI Racing) (13:09.653). **Girls (Stock 165cc) (Race-1, 3 laps):** 1. Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing) (06:35.911). **Petronas TVS One-Make Championship: Expert (Apache RR 310) (Race-1):** 1. P. Mohan Babu (11:46.751). **Rookie (Apache RTR 200) (Race-1):** 1. Akarsh Jangam (13:23.337). **Women (Apache RTR 200) (Race-1, 5 laps):** 1. Jagathishree Kumaresan (11:05.082). **Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (Honda CB 300F) (Race-1):** 1. R. Solomon (12:42.354).

SNAPSHOTS

Rishabh stars as Indian team enters two finals

Compound archer Rishabh Yadav shone as India reached men's and mixed team summit clashes and assured itself of two medals on the opening day of the World archery championships in Gwangju, Korea, on Saturday. Rishabh joined hands with Aman Saini and Prathamesh Fuge to help Indian men's team go past Australia 232-232 (shoot-off: 30-28), the USA 234-233 and Turkey 234-232 and set up a title clash with France. He combined with V. Jyothi Surekha to enable the Indian mixed team defeat Germany 160-152, El Salvador 157-153 and Taiwan 157-155 and fix a final date with Netherlands.

The results: Compound: Qualification: Individual: Men: Rishabh Yadav (eighth, 709), Aman Saini (15th, 707), Prathamesh Fuge (19th, 706). **Women:** V. Jyothi Surekha (third, 707), Parneet Kaur (11th, 703), Prithika Pradeep (44th, 690). **Elimination: Team: Men: First round:** India got a bye; **Second round:** bt Australia 232-232, shoot-off: 30-28. **Quarterfinals:** bt USA 234-233; **Semifinals:** bt Turkiye 234-232. **Women: First round: India** got a bye; **Second round:** lost to Italy 229-233. **Mixed: First round: India** got a bye; **Second round:** bt Germany 160-152; **Quarterfinals:** bt El Salvador 157-153; **Semifinals:** bt Taiwan 157-155.

Rohith, Om, Deepshika and Snigdha with their prizes.

Rohith, Deepshika emerge champions

BENGALURU: Rohith Gobinath and Deepshika Vinayagamurthy emerged the boys' and girls' singles winners in the KSLTA ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors event on Saturday.

The results (finals): Boys: Rohith Gobinath bt Om Verma 7-5, 6-1. **Girls:** Deepshika Vinayagamurthy bt Snigdha Kanta 1-6, 7-6(3), 7-5.

Shamanth slams ton

Shamanth K.C. Raju top-scored with 113 as Kensri School beat St. Paul's English School by 25 runs in a rain-hit K.M. Ramprasad Shield (U-16) second division match.

The scores: Carmel School, Padmanabhanagar 95 in 35.5 overs lost to Presidency School, RT Nagar 99/2 in 13 overs (S.V. Vishal Reddy 31 n.o.).

Sudarshan Vidyamandir, ICSE 116/7 in 26 overs lost to St. John's HS 117/1 in 13.5 overs; *match revised to 26 overs per side because of wet outfield.*

Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul International 84 in 28.5 overs (Harshith Raja 4/16) lost to Frank Anthony PS 85/0 in 9.4 overs (Ishaan Bohra 45 n.o.).

Bethany HS 99 in 27.5 overs (Anirudh Sringeri 5/21, Shaurya Vinod 3/29) lost to VVS Sardar Patel HS 100/2 in 19 overs.

Carmel HS 111 in 37.5 overs lost to Presidency School, Nandini Layout 113/1 in 27.2 overs (Rohan Rajashekara 44 n.o., Saharsh R. Shetty 37 n.o.).

Kensri School 228/6 in 45 overs (Shamanth K.C. Raju 113) bt St. Paul's ES 203 in 44.5 overs (V. Dherein 55, Gaurav Jeevan 54; *match revised to 45 overs per side because of wet outfield.*

Sri Kumaran PS, ICSE B-62 170 in 31.3 overs (D.N. Nehal Jishnu 70) bt Venkat International PS 131 in 29.1 overs.

Dhruv's ton fires Vijaya CC into semis

Dhruv Krishnan scored a hundred (145) as Vijaya CC thrashed Century Cricketers by 192 runs to enter the semifinals of KSCA (Group I) U-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores (quarterfinals): Dooravani Cricketers (1) 197 in 49.3 overs (Harshit Pai 47, M. Shivu 86) lost to Vultures 198/2 in 36.5 overs (Atharv Malviya 86 n.o., Manikanth Shivanand 86).

Swastic Union (1) 193 in 49.1 overs (Nitish Arya 62, J. Sukruth 5/30) bt Swastic Union (2) 189/9 in 50 overs (V. Nabhas 41).

Jawans (U-19) 192/9 in 50 overs (Arnav Anil 59, Nishchinth Parmashwar 52) bt Bangalore SC 157 in 45.5 overs (Arush Jain 55, Eesa Hakeem Puthige 4/35).

Vijaya 291/9 in 50 overs (S.J. Aadharsh 43, Dhruv Krishnan 145, Aniketh Reddy 48) bt Century Cricketers 99 in 29.2 overs (R.A. Sriee Krish 26).

Italy's Gattuso era begins with a thumping win

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Gennaro Gattuso enjoyed his start to life as Italy coach on Friday as his team beat Estonia 5-0 to get its 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign back on track, while Kylian Mbappe struck as France began its bid with a win against Ukraine.

Gattuso's tenure started in style as second-half strikes by Moise Kean, Mateo Retegui – who netted twice – Giacomo Raspadori and Alessandro Bastoni fired Italy to three points and had fans chanting the coach's name in Bergamo.

Italy is third in Group I after three matches, six points behind leader Norway, which has played one game more and boasts a superior goal difference.

Michael Olise's early strike and Mbappe's 51st goal for Les Bleus handed the 2018 champion a 2-0 victory over Ukraine as Group D got underway.

The results: Group B: Slovenia 2 (Lovric 46, Vipotnik 90) drew with Sweden 2 (Elanga 18, Ayari 73); Switzerland 4 (Akanji 22, Embolo 25, 45, Widmer 39) bt Kosovo 0.

Group C: Greece 5 (Karetsas 3, Pavlidis 17, Bakasetas 21, Kourbelis 36, Tzolis 63) bt Belarus 1 (Barkovski 72-pen); Denmark 0 drew with Scotland 0.

Group D: Iceland 5 (Palsson 45+2, Johannesson 47, 56, Gudmundsson 66, Hlynsson 73) bt Azerbaijan 0; Ukraine 0 lost to France 2 (Olise 10, Mbappe 82).

Group I: Moldova 0 lost to Israel 4 (Peretz 15, Solomon 35, Baribo 59, Gloukh 77); Italy 5 (Kean 58, Retegui 69, 89, Raspadori 71, Bastoni 90+2) bt Estonia 0.

Group L: Montenegro 0 lost to Czech Republic 2 (Cerv 3, Cerny 90+6); Faroe Islands 0 lost to Croatia 1 (Kramaric 31).

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